

**Barebacking — up close and personal**  
It's happening more and more among  
gay men. Our 3-part series starts today.  
**page 13**

**Stack em up**  
Gay candidate's novel  
plan to help the homeless.  
**page 14**



**After apartheid**  
Reid & Hoffmann's 'Long  
Night's Journey Into Day.'  
**see Arts section**



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 # No. 33 # 17 August 2000

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

## MCC-SF to 911: 'Please, no lights'

by Terry Beswick



Curtis Oliver Jr., inset, was staying at the shelter inside MCC-San Francisco last month when he collapsed and later died. An MCC staffer who called 911 requested that the ambulance arrive without its lights flashing.

The staff member at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco who called 911 last month to report a medical emergency involving a client at the church's small queer youth shelter immediately asked paramedics not to use the lights when they responded, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned.

The young man who was reported unconscious, Curtis Oliver Jr., later died at Davies Medical Center. The San Francisco Medical Examiner's office is investigating Oliver's death, although an initial report by the Davies doctor who treated Oliver indicated on the death notice that opiates were involved.

On the evening of July 2, Oliver went to MCC-SF. The church staff were familiar with Oliver, who was also known as Curtis Howard, as he had stayed at other shelter programs affiliated with MCC-SF, and they admitted the young man to the six-bed program.

Sometime during the night, it became clear that Oliver was in trouble.

At 5:26 a.m. on July 3, a staff person at the church called 911. A complete transcript of the one-and-a-half minute call, made from

a copy of the dispatch tape obtained by the *B.A.R.*, is on page 12.

"I've got somebody here vomiting blood," began the female caller, identified by sources as Tawnee Walling, assistant to MCC-SF pastor Jim Mitulski.

The 911 dispatcher asked for confirmation of the caller's address.

"150 Eureka Street. Please, no lights," said the caller, evidently requesting that the ambulance drivers not use their lights.

"For us not to use the lights, there would have to be a specific reason, not a request, but a reason given by someone such as the police," commented Lieutenant Ed Campbell, spokesman for the San Francisco Fire Department, while clarifying that he has not spoken to the driver to confirm that lights were used.

Within a minute after the call was placed, an ambulance was dispatched as a "Code 3," which requires the driver to use lights as well as sirens. The ambulance arrived within four minutes to transport Oliver to California Pacific Medical Center — Davies Campus, where he was disconnected from life support at the request of his estranged mother on the afternoon of July 6.

"I don't know why she said that," the Rev-  
**page 12 ►**

## Victory Fund welcomes delegates to L.A.

by Ernie Alderete

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund's "Recognizing Our Own" welcoming brunch for gay and lesbian delegates to the Democratic National Convention was a sold out success.

Scorching weather didn't deter scores of delegates and over 40 appointed and elected gay and lesbian government officeholders from attending the August 13 event. The affair also served as a birthday party celebration for local Democratic Party activist David Mixner.

The midday temperature reached 100 degrees, and the eye-burning smog approached alert levels, yet the attendees braved discomfort atop the penthouse level of the chic Wyndham Bel Age Hotel on San Vicente Boulevard in West Hollywood to attend the welcoming reception directly under the blistering sun.

House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri, delivered the lengthy keynote address. His appearance was met with enthusiastic applause. But the surprise crowd pleaser was former first daughter Lynda Baines Johnson Robb. Her appearance whipped up enthusiasm, and provided a living connection with the Great Society her father, former President Lyndon Johnson, labored to create.

Openly gay officials included Long Beach Vice Mayor Dan Baker, who won re-election this year to his first full term as city councilman with a whopping 82 percent of the vote. Los Angeles mayoral candidate and City Councilmember Joel Wachs, state Assembly candidate and Los Angeles Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg, San Francisco Supervisor Leslie Katz, and state Senate candidate and Santa Monica Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl rubbed elbows with openly gay actor Mitchell Anderson, comic Bruce Vilanch, and scores of community activists.



House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, left, and gay activist David Mixner at the Victory Fund benefit Sunday, August 13 in Los Angeles just before the start of the Democratic National Convention.

### Exclusive interviews

During the event, the *Bay Area Reporter* talked with several of the attendees. Below are their comments.

#### Karla Drenner

One official who has not taken office yet is Karla Drenner, who was elected last month to the Georgia state Assembly, beating a four-term incumbent. Drenner has no Republican opponent in November, and will take office next year. She will be Georgia's first openly gay state representative.

**B.A.R.:** What exactly does the Victory Fund do?

Drenner: The Gay and Lesbian Victory  
**page 18 ►**



Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz addressed the Board of Supervisors Finance Committee August 9 about HIV infection rates. On the podium are remnants of Silly String that AIDS denialists sprayed at Katz.

## The middle ground

### HIV numbers, prevention require different approach, officials say

by Katie Szymanski

On one hand, there are people who believe that because the San Francisco Department of Public Health blundered the numbers for new HIV cases, we should vehemently fight any efforts to combat a projected rise in new infections. In the other corner are those who pledge their allegiance to DPH and the system, and stand by a declared "sub-Saharan" epidemic in the city.

Both sides are wrong, as demonstrated by a hearing at the Board of Supervisors Finance Committee last Wednesday, Au-

gust 9. The hearing was called by board President Tom Ammiano to address DPH statements that HIV cases had nearly doubled in San Francisco to 900 new infections; DPH later backpedaled and called its previous statements "unfortunate."

"But the damage has already been done," Ammiano remarked to DPH officials about the news coverage that more or less blamed gay men for a renewed epidemic.

Yet many people present at the hearing seemed unable to grasp the true middle ground: that HIV infections are up and the DPH has a credibility problem.

It is not an either/or scenario in the city  
**page 20 ►**

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## Pride in the Mission



Over 1,000 activists, residents, and supporters take to the streets in San Francisco's Mission District Saturday, August 12 to protest increasing gentrification in the diverse neighborhood. Groups, including the Castro Tenants Union, are campaigning for a November ballot measure that would strengthen voter-approved Proposition M and stop over-development in neighborhoods.

## Fixing schools is gay candidate's goal

by Cynthia Laird

Years of fiscal experience and a background in public education led Stephen Herman to run for a seat on the San Francisco Board of Education in November. Herman, who's openly gay, wants voters to know he's running in part so that gays will continue to be represented on the board.

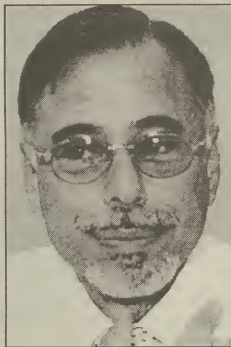
Currently, the only lesbian member of the board, Juanita Owens, is not seeking re-election as she's running for supervisor in District 5.

But there's more to Herman than his sexual orientation.

"San Francisco's schools desperately need fixing," said Herman, who's making his first run for public office. Herman, 52, is a senior administrator at City College, where he's worked for the last 16 years, including 10 years of direct fiscal administration. And until last week, he served on the city's Human Rights Commission.

But Herman also has 12 years of teaching experience. He's taught evening classes at City College and had teaching stints at the University of San Francisco and Heald Business College. He also supervised student activities at Presidio Middle School for eight years.

The San Francisco Unified School District has had fiscal problems and they have been extensively reported in the local media. Earlier this month, Arlene Ackerman took over as superintendent for the troubled system, where overtime pay for some staff members was out of control and teachers lacked



Stephen Herman

basic materials, taking to the streets to panhandle for supplies.

Ackerman, who prior to accepting the top job in San Francisco led the Washington, D.C. public school system, has her work cut out for her. While Herman said he's not yet met the new superintendent, he's already pleased with some of her actions. It's been reported that Ackerman has made some personnel changes, and is working to get a grip on the district's financial picture.

"I actually like some of her statements, in terms of budgeting differently and I'm encouraged by the changes and moves she's already made in personnel to tighten up the district office," Herman told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "In the long run, I'm taking a wait and see attitude."

Herman said his campaign is going well; to date he's raised

about \$20,000 and plans to raise another \$20,000 and put in \$10,000 of his own money. Unlike this year's races for supervisor where voters are choosing candidates in 11 districts, the Board of Education members run citywide.

A strong supporter of preschool and child development programs, bilingual education, and expanded nutrition, health, and counseling services, Herman said that if elected, he'd also work hard to make all students and staff safe from discrimination and harassment.

"I'm running as a gay man, I want to keep that issue on the table," Herman said. Schools must prepare students of every ethnic, racial, and cultural background to succeed in the new global economy, he added. To that end, gay and lesbian students and teachers deserve safe supportive schools and disabled students deserve better access to buildings and programs.

Another important factor in his life, Herman said, is having grown up in a working-class Jewish family in Brooklyn. "As a Jew, I have been instilled with the idea that education is an important answer to many of life's challenges," he said.

Herman also spoke about his two-year tenure on the HRC, which last year came under scrutiny by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for alleged mismanagement of the minority contracting program. Herman said things have started to turn around.

"It was a very difficult two years," Herman said. "I think the commission, under the leadership

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Attorney to fight Mass club search policy

by Ed Walsh

The attorney defending a man who was arrested at the gay circuit party, Mass, will ask the court to throw out the charges against her client on the grounds that Ten 15 Folsom nightclub security officers violated the man's constitutional rights.

San Francisco Assistant Public Defender Sujung Kim is representing a man charged with drug dealing after Ten 15 security officers allegedly found him in possession of several ecstasy tablets. The man was one of seven people arrested on drug charges at Mass on May 28.

Kim told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she believes many of Ten 15's searches are in violation of the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits police or government agents from searching an individual without probable cause. Kim said Ten 15's security officers are acting as de facto government agents because of an agreement the club reached with the San Francisco Police Department and the City Attorney's office last May. Under the pact, Ten 15 agreed to arrest and detain anyone found to be in possession of illegal drugs. The settlement was reached in the wake of a police crackdown on several South of Market after-hours clubs.

In a court hearing scheduled for September 27, Kim will ask a judge to rule that Ten 15's security officers are de facto government agents and shouldn't be allowed to conduct searches without probable cause. If the judge decides in her favor, Kim will then argue the charges should be thrown out on the grounds that Ten 15's security officers didn't have probable cause to search her client.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California's

managing attorney, Alan Schlosser, told the *B.A.R.* that he agreed with Kim's argument that Ten 15's security should be held to the same standards as police officers.

"The Fourth Amendment doesn't apply to private security officers but I think that when you have searches that are taking place pursuant to a court injunction, in which the club is required to comply with it to stay open, I think the question then is whether you are dealing with private searches or whether they are in fact acting as agents of the state," said Schlosser. "It seems to me that these are no longer private searches."

told the *B.A.R.* that the club's searches don't violate anyone's constitutional rights because people voluntarily consent to be searched as a condition of entering the club.

"That doesn't raise any constitutional issues whether or not you deem them to be private security or government affiliated because it's consensual," Wood said. "As for things that happen inside the club, which is what her [Kim's] client was involved with, if somebody is engaging in what looks to club security like drug related criminal activity, then that person is searched on that basis."

Wood added that Ten 15's se-

**"I think the question then is whether you are dealing with private searches or whether they are in fact acting as agents of the state. It seems to me that these are no longer private searches."**

"I don't think that the San Francisco Police Department and the city attorney can come in and force a private club to adopt a search policy and then kind of wash their hands of it and say the searches that take place, even if they're unconstitutional, are purely private and therefore the evidence isn't covered by the exclusionary rule."

Schlosser also questioned the club's searches of people before they enter the club.

"If they are pat searching everyone who comes in, then I think that raises some questions about whether that intrusion is reasonable."

Ten 15's attorney, Joe Wood,

curity is well trained to only search people inside the club when there's probable cause to believe they are engaged in an illegal activity.

San Francisco Police acting Southern District Captain, Larry Minasian, told the *B.A.R.* that since Ten 15 initiated its tough security policy, three to four people on average are arrested each night by club security. Minasian said that the arrests are considered "citizen's arrests" and those arrested are picked up by San Francisco police for booking at the Hall of Justice. Minasian reiterated Ten 15's position that all patrons are admonished both verbally and by posted signs that they will be arrested if found with drugs. ▼

## GAPA's 'Runway 2000' this Saturday

by Terry Beswick

For an evening of elegance and fun, and "a celebration of individual creativity," saunter down to the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance's "Runway 2000" this Saturday, August 19 at San Francisco's Herbst Theatre at 401 Van Ness Avenue.

Runway 2000, the 12th annual Miss GAPA & Gay Asian Pacific Man Pageant, is a "unique showcase that plays on the glamour of tradition all pageants, while pushing the boundaries of self-expression."

"This year's program has been tweaked to add extra punch to the show, including the introduction of finalists to the program," according to organizers. "As always, entertainment will be a blast, with

our spotlight on the fabulous talents of Filipino American songstress, Yvette. We also can't wait for the newest mega production number from the GAPA Dance Company, which will fuse ethnic dance movements with a hard-driving techno beat. With all this and more, Runway 2000 promises to be another explosive evening of camp, comedy and fun."

Tita Aida will serve as the evening's emcee, with Mr. and Miss GAPA 1999, Mark da Boto and Holly Peño.

Past recipient of a Cable Car Award for outstanding competition event, Runway 2000 is a benefit for GAPA, an organization dedicated to furthering the interests of gay and bisexual Asian and Pacific Islanders by creating awareness, developing a positive

collective identity, and by establishing a supportive community.

Advance tickets are \$15 for GAPA members, supporters, students, and \$18.50 for non-members; all tickets at the door are \$20.

Reserved seating in the front orchestra are \$30, and box seats are \$50. Advance tickets are available through City Box Office at (415) 392-4400. ▼

For more information about GAPA, call (415) 430-2196, ext. 1230, or go to [www.gapa.org](http://www.gapa.org).

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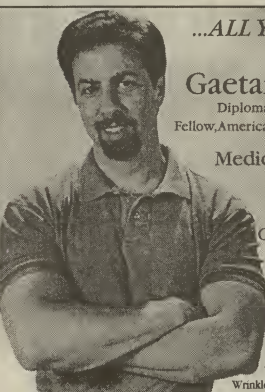


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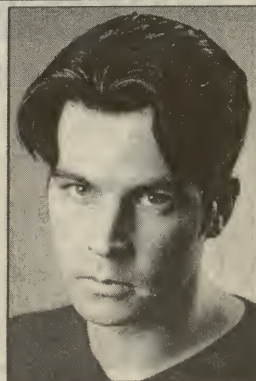


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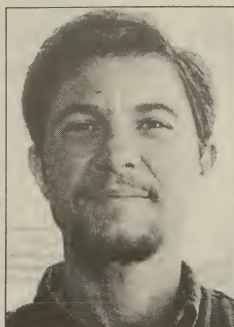
# Save the tranny bills

by Katie Szymanski

Just when you thought our state might do well in at least one area of civil rights, the California Legislature delivered a double whammy to two pieces of pro-transgender legislation last week, temporarily defeating an employment non-discrimination bill and another bill once thought to be a shoe-in because of its administrative nature. There is still time to save the bills, as both are up for reconsideration, but the public is needed to register support for their passage.

AB2142, by Assemblyman Fred Keeley (D-Santa Cruz), would clarify current law against sex discrimination to prohibit discriminatory acts based on gender. The Senate Judiciary Committee voted 4-3 in favor of the bill, but a fifth vote was necessary to pass it. Not surprisingly, the three dissenters were Republicans, but it was the choice of two Democrats to abstain from the vote that caused the bill to fail. State Senators Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) and Steve Peace (D-El Cajon) withheld their votes, despite the intense lobbying of Keeley and other supporters. At press time, neither Schiff nor Peace returned phone calls from the *Bay Area Reporter* seeking an explanation to their no-votes.

"We were very disappointed, but hope to use this time to influence opinions and gain another vote," Shannon Minter, staff attorney at the National Center for Les-



NCLR's Shannon Minter

bian Rights, told the B.A.R. "Neither of the senators are a lost cause, but Schiff has historically been pretty solid. He should vote for this bill because it's consistent with his past record."

The bill will probably be heard again on August 18 or 22, according to Minter.

AB1851, as reported in the B.A.R. earlier this year, would make it easier for post-operative transsexuals from California to receive birth certificates that document their new genders and/or names. This important documentation is vital for people who seek any kind of normal life that may involve travel, driving, and working. Because the law is already on the books, most advocates of the bill had expected easy passage (AB1851 simply extends current law to allow a birth certificate to be

issued to new California residents and residents of other states who were born here). But a key vote in the Senate Appropriations Committee was missing three important members: state Senators Dede Alpert (D-Coronado), Debra Bowen (D-Marina del Ray), Martha Escutia (D-Huntington Park). Thus, the bill failed, thanks to these convenient absences. The bill was granted reconsideration, however, and another vote is expected early next week.

"I would expect it to pass next time around," said Minter. "Hopefully the senators will remedy an accidental oversight and approve it. There's no controversy attached to that bill."

If you're tired of Democrats taking the silent approach rather than standing up for our communities (or coming out against them, which at least lets us know where they stand), you are encouraged to call and/or write the above lawmakers to voice your support for these bills.

Senator Schiff can be reached at (916) 445-5976, or senator.schiff@sen.ca.gov; Senator Peace is at (916) 445-6767, or senator.peace@sen.ca.gov. Be sure to remind the above senators that their vote is needed for AB2142.

There is also still time to save AB1851 if you contact Senator Alpert at (916) 445-3952 or senator.alpert@sen.ca.gov; Senator Bowen at (916) 445-5953 or senator.bowen@sen.ca.gov; and Senator Escutia at (916) 327-8315 or senator.escutia@sen.ca.gov. ▼

## Hobson bows out of District 6 supe race

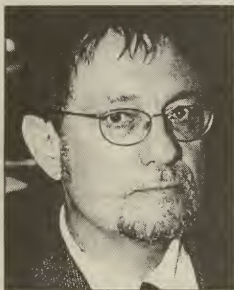
by Cynthia Laird

After entering the race for District 6 supervisor one month ago, Frederick Hobson announced August 10 that he had withdrawn from the crowded field of candidates.

Hobson jumped into the race immediately after Supervisor Leslie Katz said she would not seek re-election because she could not afford to move into the sprawling district; Katz lives in the same district as Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano, who is seeking re-election.

Sixteen candidates are running for supervisor in District 6, which includes the Tenderloin, South of Market, and Hayes Valley. The filing deadline was last Friday, August 11.

Hobson said he was quitting the race because he did not want to give up his position as a member of the rent board. "For me to remain a candidate, I would have been faced with the mayor's request that his appointed commissioners who are seeking public of-



Frederick Hobson

fice resign from office," Hobson said. "My work as a rent board commissioner representing renters is very important to me, and I consider good representation for renters to be vital, especially at a time of uncertainty for renters."

"I cannot, in good conscience, resign my commission [seat] less than a year into term," he added.

Kandace Bender, Mayor Brown's spokeswoman, confirmed

that the mayor issued a letter stating that it was his preference that those serving on commissions who are running for elected office resign their seats to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

Earlier this year, Hobson was also appointed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to the city's Commission on Animal Control and Welfare.

Hobson, a 14-year resident of District 6, said he knows the concerns and challenges facing residents in the district, and that he would have been a responsive supervisor.

"For many years, I have been very active in the efforts and challenges in making our neighborhood safe, clean, affordable, and vibrant," Hobson said. "I will continue that work, and I will be active in ensuring that the people of District 6 have good representation at City Hall."

Another District 6 candidate, former *Bay Area Reporter* staffer Kent Bradley, also dropped out of the race because he moved to Montana. ▼

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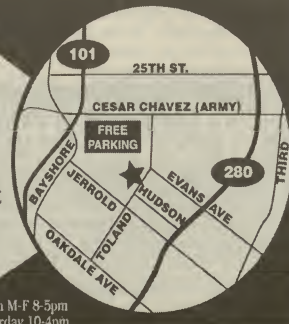
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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Ohio politico talks AIDS in SF

by Terry Beswick

Democrats are eager to take back control of the House this fall, and if they succeed, Representative Sherrod Brown of Ohio will be a very powerful man.

As ranking member of the House Commerce Committee's Health and Environment Subcommittee, Brown is in line to become chair if the Democrats succeed in winning a majority of seats in the House.

Brown made a stop in San Francisco last Saturday on his way to the Democratic National Convention, and took the time to meet with about a dozen San Franciscans to talk about AIDS and health issues.

At the hour and a half meeting at the Monarch Hotel on Geary Street, representatives of various AIDS-related groups spoke passionately about the need for increased support for local AIDS programs, including HIV prevention, the Ryan White CARE Act, health care for ex-convicts, and adequate pay for community physicians.

Describing himself at one point during the meeting as "more liberal than Ted Kennedy because he votes for bad trade bills," Brown nevertheless cautioned the group that under the current Republican leadership, there is not the level of concern about AIDS that there was a few years ago.

Brown also suggested that some members of Congress may be less sympathetic to the plight of people with HIV in San Francisco, given the perception that medical advances have turned the tide against the epidemic, and in light of recent reports of increased unsafe sexual

behavior among gay and bisexual men from the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

"[Congressman Tom] Coburn has a little bit of the 'blame the victim' attitude, Brown remarked.

A practicing physician, Coburn (R-Okla.) is currently vice chair of the subcommittee on health and environment, and has taken the lead on the subcommittee in shaping the CARE Act five-year reauthorization bill.

Many of the meeting participants expressed concern that not enough was being done to stave off

a wave of new infections among gay and bisexual men in San Francisco.

"I have zero people in my practice who are practicing safe sex all the time," said Dr. Allison Lavoy, an HIV physician in private practice.

Several of those present appealed to Brown for support for the Senate version of the CARE Act reauthorization, which protects San Francisco HIV programs from substantial cuts of up to 25 percent in the House version. The reauthorization is in conference between the two houses and is expected to come to a vote after Labor Day. ▼



Ohio Congressman Sherrod Brown

## Protest against Boy Scouts this Monday

by Terry Beswick

The Boy Scouts of America may be allowed to discriminate against gay youth and adults, but that doesn't mean they have to.

This Monday, August 21, as part of a new push to convince the BSA to be good scouts and change their bigoted ways, Scouting For All plans to stage protests and rallies at 36 locations around the country.

In Northern California, protests will be held in San Leandro, San Mateo, Santa Rosa, and Sacramento, and organizers are calling for all current and former scouts, their parents, and other supporters to join with them in opposing the policy.

"We're asking organizations to send speakers and bring home-made picket signs," said Hank Wilson, a local organizer.

Petaluma High School student

and Eagle Scout Steve Cozza will be leading a protest at the BSA national headquarters in Texas, where the Scouting for All leader will present a petition with 55,000 signatures opposing the policy of discrimination against gay scouts and troop leaders.

"I'd like to encourage my fellow scouts across the United States and throughout the world to stand with me and protest against the Boy Scouts of America's discrimination against gay youth and adults," said Cozza. "We are not giving up."

After the recent Supreme Court ruling in the case of *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale*, in which the court determined that as a private organization, the "morally straight" BSA could exclude gay troop leaders from its ranks, Cozza called on President Bill Clinton to resign as honorary chairman of the BSA.

For further information on the

Scouting For All national day of protest contact each individual protest site organizer below. Call Scouting For All at (707) 778-0564, or visit [www.scoutingforall.org](http://www.scoutingforall.org).

• San Leandro: San Francisco Bay Area Council Office at 9:30 a.m. 1001 Davis St., near the San Leandro BART Station. Contact Hank Wilson at (415) 864-0738 or [henryruhe@aol.com](mailto:henryruhe@aol.com).

• San Mateo: Pacific Skyline Council at 9:00 a.m. (subject to change). 1300 South Amphlett Boulevard. Contact John at [bsaprotest@hotmail.com](mailto:bsaprotest@hotmail.com)

• Santa Rosa: Santa Rosa Junior College, 11 a.m. to 3p.m. 1501 Mendocino Avenue. Contact the Youth Activists Against Hate Organization at [NetUser842@aol.com](mailto:NetUser842@aol.com)

• Sacramento: State Capitol Building - North Steps, 9 a.m. Contact Kathleen Montgomery, Sacramento PFLAG at (916) 922-3339 or (916) 484-2169, or [kcmame@aol.com](mailto:kcmame@aol.com). ▼

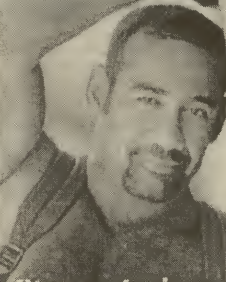
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## ART DIRECTION &amp; DESIGN

Adrian Roberts

## AD PRODUCTION &amp; LAYOUT

Scott King

## PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Mike Hardison

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jane Philomen Cleland • Darlene/PhotoGraphics  
Marc Geller • Rick Gerharter

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## Bay Area Reporter

395 Ninth Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
415.861.5019 • 415.861.7230  
http://www.ebar.com

News Editor • barpaper@aol.com

Arts Editor • bararts@aol.com

Advertising • baradv@aol.com

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## No 'inclusion illusion' for Dems

President Clinton delivered his last speech as head of the Democratic Party Monday night, and what a speech it was. Clinton, a masterful politician, systematically tore down the arguments that GOP nominee George W. Bush and other Republicans threw at him two weeks ago at their convention in Philadelphia, and, more importantly, started to pave the way for Vice President Al Gore to define himself as he accepts his party's nomination for president tonight.

If Monday was the Clintons' night (first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton got to give her Senate candidacy a boost in prime time before thanking the American people and introducing her husband) then Tuesday was the night that shone the spotlight on the liberal side of a Democratic Party that has become more centrist over the last eight years. And it was the night that gave us the most vivid examples of the stark differences that exist between the Democrats and Republicans.

The Reverend Jesse Jackson said it best: the Republican National Convention was an "inclusion illusion." There, the far right, hard-core homophobes were not on the podium, so those watching got a dose of a made-for-television event that showed Republicans are tolerant — as long as no one talks about things like equal rights for gays. Yes, lesbian Mary Cheney was there; no, she didn't talk about the importance of non-discrimination laws protecting gays. Yes, Jim Kolbe, the House's only openly gay Republican, was there and addressed the delegates; no, he didn't talk about the importance of allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military.

The GOP put forth a diverse slate of speakers intended to highlight Bush's so-called compassionate conservatism. But as Jackson told a cheering Democratic crowd, it was "all smoke and mirrors."

Both conventions featured openly gay people that spoke to the delegates. The stark difference, however, was that in Philadelphia Kolbe couldn't talk about gay rights, and in Los Angeles, the Human Rights Campaign's Elizabeth Birch could and did talk about gay rights. Birch even mentioned "bisexual and

transgender" people in completing the "b" and "t" in LGBT, which pleased at least some in the community who watched her speech. HRC is not known for being the most trans-friendly organization, so it was important that Birch at least mentioned them in her remarks.

Birch also addressed equal rights for the LGBT community, including the importance of protecting gay and lesbian families, allowing gays and lesbians to serve in the military, and about ending discrimination and violence against the LGBT community.

There was another stark difference at the Democratic convention that was immediately apparent — the camera shots of the crowd. Unlike the mostly white crowd in Philadelphia, those attending the confab in Los Angeles were of every color and all sexual orientations. There was even a transgender delegate — 73-year-old Jane Fee, from Minnesota, who's a World

War II veteran and grandmother of 10.

Diversity. That's in large part what the Democratic Party stands for, and that's why it's important to support Al Gore and Joe Lieberman in November. Yes, it's the most conservative Democratic ticket in many years, and yes, the Democrats have become more centrist. But look at the alternative: George W. Bush does not support equal rights for gays and lesbians, and if he wins, the gains that the community has made over the last eight years could be wiped out. The future of the Supreme Court also depends on this election, as the next president likely will appoint several justices.

As long as there are people like Trent Lott, Jesse Helms, Pat Robertson, and Jerry Falwell calling the shots for the Republicans, there will be no equal rights for gays in this country. We still have a long way to go, but it would be a step back in time if Bush were elected president. ▼



## Editorial

CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE ARREST OF ACT-UP PROTESTER TERRENCE MCGUCKIN DURING THE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION?



...PARTICULARLY THE CHARGE AGAINST HIM OF "POSSESSION OF AN INSTRUMENT OF CRIME" — REPORTEDLY A CELL PHONE?



## You're invited to a 'T'\* party

by Patrick Califia-Rice

Every two or three months, the sexual pressure just gets to be too much for Lenny\*. He goes to a cruising adult bookstore, gets down on his knees in a video cubicle, and sucks cock until his throat is sore. Once in a while, he's taken his pants down just far enough to let somebody fuck him. Because he doesn't have sex very often, he usually feels too desperate to insist that the other guy use a condom. If his trick offers to blow him, Lenny freaks out and leaves. Once he gets home, he jacks off frantically. After he gets off, he wonders if this is all life has to offer. He'd like to have a fuck buddy or a lover, but is too scared to try for that much intimacy.

None of Roger's friends can deal with his new lover, Greg. They don't approve of the man in his life. Roger has put up with a lot of rough teasing that isn't very funny. His neighbors are also unfriendly, and snub or harass the two of them when they go out together. Roger has a lot of questions about this new kind of relationship, but can't seem to find any resources that would answer them. He feels isolated. Sometimes this causes so much tension that he and Greg fight, even though they really love each other.

You probably think that Lenny is a closeted gay man who feels guilty about having sex with other guys. And Roger sounds like someone who's just come out whose straight friends can't cope with him being gay. But in fact Lenny is a female-to-male transsexual (FTM), thanks to testosterone and chest surgery, never has his male identity questioned in public. But he hasn't had any genital surgery. He's afraid other gay men will not accept him as male if he reveals his transgendered status, so he can't have reciprocal sex. He feels that he's lucky to have any sex at all with other guys. Pulling out a con-

dom might result in Lenny losing the little bit of pleasure and validation he gets from "casual" public sex. So he takes his chances.

Roger may sound to you like somebody who has just come out, but he's been very public about his homosexuality for years. His new lover is an FTM, and Roger's friends are reacting as if he hooked up with a woman. To them, being a gay man is all about having a dick, even though most of them are bottoms. Greg's parts work just fine, and it's unlikely that he will ever have them surgically altered. Genital surgery for FTMs is very expensive and in the U.S. must be paid for by the individual. The medical technology isn't nearly as good as it is for male-to-female transsexuals. To Greg, the risk of losing the ability to have an orgasm is just not worth it. There's no organization for FTMs and their significant others where Roger and Greg live, so they have to figure out their lives alone while both gay and straight people disapprove of what they are doing.

A recent study by the San Francisco Department of Public Health and the Transsexual Community Health Project interviewed 123 FTMs about their HIV risk behavior. Fifty-one percent of the sample identified as gay or bisexual. While the rate of HIV prevalence was low (1.6 percent), 28 percent of the respondents said they had unprotected receptive anal sex. Almost two-thirds had unprotected vaginal intercourse. About one-third of the respondents had been diagnosed with an STD. Among the 18 percent of them who injected recreational drugs, 91 percent had shared needles. There's clearly a potential problem here. Yet there's been almost no HIV prevention education aimed at FTMs and their partners,

and AIDS services organizations rarely include FTMs in their mission statements.

One HIV prevention agency, the Stop AIDS Project, is taking the steps to address the needs of FTMs proactively. Thanks to Willy Wilkinson, a group of FTM volunteers, and Darlene Weide at the Stop AIDS Project, a space is being created for dialogue between queer FTMs and biomen\*\*\*. You may think that you know everything about having sex with other guys. But if you come to this forum, chances are good you'll be surprised. A panel of gay/bisexual FTMs and biomen will tell their stories and talk about how they view one another.

There will be time for questions and discussion.

"T for Two" will be held Thursday, August 24, at 7 p.m., in the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy at 4235 19th Street. The forum is co-sponsored by Tranny Fest, Harvey Milk Institute, and FTM International.

Satisfy your curiosity about this new aspect of your community. If you think there's more to your gay identity than what's in your genes or your jeans, we'll expect to see you there. ▼

\*"T" is tranny slang for testosterone.

\*\*The names of the characters in this article are fictitious, although the incidents described are true.

\*\*\*"Biomen" is FTM slang for genetic males.

Patrick Califia-Rice is in the early stages of gender transition. Under the name Pat Califia, he has written more than two dozen fiction and nonfiction books about queer sex and the politics of desire. He's also in private practice as a therapist.

## Guest Opinion





## LETTERS

## Lied to by ex-boyfriend

Thank you so much for printing the Guest Opinion entitled "Our Dying Youth" by Richard Wahl in August 3 issue.

I thought I was alone with my experience. I too was lied to and manipulated by my boyfriend. He was a smooth operator who told me he loved me and wanted to spend the rest of his life with me in a monogamous relationship, and he also swore he was HIV-negative. I believed that trust was the bedrock of a loving and meaningful relationship. The price I paid for that belief was becoming HIV-positive. I was able to dig up enough proof to convince myself that my partner knew he was HIV-positive a full year before I seroconverted.

I understand that a lot of people in our community will say that I was a fool for trusting him. But we don't all walk around expecting evil to lurk in every corner. Why should I expect that someone would want to intentionally infect me with an incurable disease? This sort of behavior is not part of my general reality.

My life has forever changed drastically. I'm dealing with how to be open to relating to people around me, trust that they are honest and equally open with me, and protect myself from disease, abuse, and lies. There is nothing I can do to prevent this from happening to someone else other than urge that we continue to discuss these cases, make them public, so that we create an awareness. I have contacted the Department of Public Health and found that there is nothing they can do. I have confronted my ex-boyfriend and he has told me to disappear, which I refuse to do.

We are at a very ignorant stage right now in our society. While we try to talk about our lives and our truth, the majority would prefer to have things stay the same, avoid change, and, as you know, ignorance is bliss. I wish there was some way I could warn others. I wish I had been warned. Please be careful, these charming predators exist and they will lie to you ... and it may cost you your life.

Azriel Hayes  
San Francisco

## He gambled and lost

In his zeal to condemn his newly infected friend's boyfriend for claiming to be HIV-negative ["Our dying youth," August 3], Richard Wahl conveniently forgets the part of the responsibility issue that is too often ignored – the fact that it takes two people to transmit HIV.

Without doubt, Richard's friend's boyfriend is scum. But Richard's friend is not without fault. He evidently consented to the sex he had that infected him. He ignored the central point of most HIV prevention campaigns, the point that says use a condom, period. He thought he'd found a way to cheat reality – the reality that you can't ever know another person's HIV status for sure.

Even if his partner hadn't been lying, Richard's friend's decision to have unsafe sex would have ignored the possibility that his partner was in the window period (infectious but not showing antibodies), or had been infected after his last HIV test. If you're uninfected, there are no situations where unprotected sex is risk-free. Richard's friend should realize this, because he proved it. He gambled and lost.

None of this makes the boyfriend less evil, but if Richard's friend thinks he's a 100 percent innocent victim, he's still not facing reality. He consented to a known risk, and now he can't bring himself to admit that taking that risk was a mistake.

Richard hopes he'll be "lucky enough" not to contract HIV himself. This shows an incredible lack of insight. You don't get HIV by being "unlucky;" you get it by being stupid. Simply deciding to be "more careful" if you bed someone you know has HIV won't keep you safe. If you don't see why, you're too stupid to be having sex.

Finally, what's this "dying youth" crap? Does Richard think only twentysomethings are contracting HIV, and that they're only getting it from men much older than themselves? Get real. That whole image is false, inflammatory, and serves no purpose other than to polarize.

Peter Caldwell  
San Francisco

## Beyond lynch mob mentality

Richard Wahl's meandering Guest Opinion in the August 3 issue left me having something to say. First, I have sympathy for the hardship he is going through seeing first one then another friend test HIV-positive. I know that's not an easy thing to deal with.

I must say, however, that to treat his friends like they are already dead is tacky, to say the least. Worse still is the misguided notion that either of their HIV-positive boyfriends is guilty of murder. Since when does murder, by definition, involve the victim willingly taking part in the act? Mr. Wahl didn't say if either of his friends practiced safe sex. If not, can they be sure who infected them? Someone who just takes his partner's word for it is playing a game of Russian

roulette and needs to take some responsibility for that. Do you really only practice safe sex if and when your partner says, "Yes, I'm HIV-positive"? Sounds like for Mr. Wahl it's either unsafe sex with guys that say they're HIV-negative or nothing sexual whatsoever to do with those he knows are HIV-positive. Would that be accurate?

Lying about one's HIV status is wrong, but to say such a person knowingly infects another is ludicrous and to call such a person a murderer is what's known as a lynch mob mentality. In a civilized society we don't react to irresponsible behavior, which this surely is, by gathering together a bunch of others blinded by the same sort of anger – also known as fear – and hang the perpetrator by a rope from a tree and call it justice. Some of us have evolved beyond that.

Anthony Rhody  
San Francisco

## District 3 candidate responds

I am writing in response to the letter that suggested I was not endorsed by the Milk Club for supervisor because of my 1997 vote on ROTC ["Why should we reward them?" *Mailstrom*, August 3]. In 1997, the federal government threatened to terminate approximately \$1.7 million in student financial aid at City College unless we allowed the military back on campus to recruit. I was vehemently opposed but was told that unless we allowed the military back on campus, 2,453 low-income students who depended on the financial aid would have to drop out of school. I just could not sacrifice those students, many of whom were students of color and queer students.

In 1997, I specifically asked to speak before the Milk Club to explain my vote. In 1998, the Milk Club PAC and membership endorsed me for re-election to the College Board because of my record of accomplishments for our community.

To suggest then that I did not get the Milk Club endorsement for District 3 supervisor this year because of my 1997 ROTC vote is therefore disingenuous. I look forward to working with my many good friends at the Milk Club for we all have much work ahead of us.

Lawrence Wong  
S.F. Community College Board Member  
Candidate for District 3 Supervisor

## Owens is a trailblazer

I am writing to urge the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community to support our longtime friend, Dr. Juanita Owens, who is running for supervisor in District 5 (Haight, Inner Sunset, Western Addition).

Juanita is a trailblazer – a lesbian of color who has made her mark on San Francisco in a real way. As dean of counseling at City College and president of the San Francisco school board she has always fought for a progressive and common sense agenda designed to respond to community needs.

Along the way, like every lesbian (and gay) leader, she has occasionally been attacked, most recently in an uninformed letter by Dennis Seely ["Why should we reward them?" *Mailstrom*, August 3]. Get the facts "straight," sir: Juanita has always supported domestic partner benefits and comparable worth for women. These are issues that directly affect her. When appointed by Dianne Feinstein to the Commission on the Status of Women, she supported the comparable worth proposal which "stepped-up" pay increases for women's jobs in a way that didn't blow holes in the city budget. She also fought Mayor Feinstein, unsuccessfully, for early city adoptions of the domestic partner ordinance – and Juanita later implemented the same policies at the San Francisco Unified School District. Juanita and her domestic partner Rosalinda are pleased and proud with the results.

Juanita is the only candidate in her race who has shown the will and the ability to fight for our community's needs. She deserves our vote.

Carole Cullum, Attorney at Law  
San Francisco

## Candidate O'Hearn responds

I wanted to thank Terry Beswick for writing such a great piece of fiction about me ["Gay District 8 supe candidate wants power," August 3]. Hopefully Bob Ross (the publisher) pays him extra for his sensationalistic *National Inquirer* reporting skills. It's always a surprise to learn new things about yourself but I never considered myself a woman-hating, ACT UP/SF radical who doesn't know if HIV causes AIDS until Mr. Beswick so inventively pointed it out. At any rate, I feel it is imperative that I clarify a few points that were misrepresented by Mr. Beswick or completely excluded from the piece written about me:

1. I'm a contributing writer to the thought-provoking ACT UP/SF newsmagazine *Magnus* (magnusnews.com) and if Mr. Beswick could get past his obsession with them he would become a much more objective writer. I've written extensively and intelligently

next page ►

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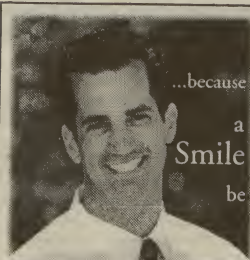
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## Mailstrom

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ly on the controversial topics of the queer youth homeless shelter being incorporated at the new gay and lesbian community center, about private spaces in sex clubs, about the dangers of toxic medications, and the inherent problems with partner notification. The B.A.R. is welcome to print any of my controversial articles for its readership and to let them decide if my affiliation with ACT UP/SF is newsworthy.

2. My wish for more gay men in office is true, however, Mr. Beswick was highly irresponsible and misrepresented me by framing that remark to imply that I am misogynistic and sexist which I certainly am not. My desire to see more openly gay men and lesbians in elected office is sincere and we must work together as a community to see this happen.

3. I was student body president of my university (not high school council) and managed a million dollar budget at the age of 21 and I'm very proud of that fact.

4. Since Mr. Beswick excluded my responses on the substantive issues affecting the district such as low-income housing, he denied the B.A.R. readership an incredible chance to really know the true differences between Mark [Leno], Eileen [Hansen], Gary [Virginia], and myself in our desire to represent District 8. I welcome anyone who seriously wants to know my qualifications to visit my Web site at [www.ohearn4supervisor.com](http://www.ohearn4supervisor.com), or e-mail me at [sfpolitic@hotmail.com](mailto:sfpolitic@hotmail.com), or call me at 252-7624 with any questions about my candidacy.

Shawn O'Hearn  
Candidate for Supervisor, District 8

[Editor's Note: We apologize for the error regarding Mr. O'Hearn's student body president tenure.]

### Likes the guy but ...

It is difficult for me to fathom a Shawn O'Hearn thirsty for power ["Gay District 8 supe candidate wants power," August 3]. It is difficult for me to learn he is a sexist Neanderthal with his remark that his district needs male leadership. I like the guy but does he realize that male leadership throughout history has got us in the mess we now face. Shame on you, Shawn!

Denise D'Anne  
Candidate for Supervisor, District 6

### Bar doorman responds

I'm writing to respond to comments made about me by Mister Marcus in his August 3 column. My name is Buck and I believe I'm the doorman he was referring to in that article. I want to say first of all that even though I'm not very familiar with San Francisco's leather community, I'm not totally unconscious. I am familiar with Mister Marcus and have come across several of his articles in international leather magazines; I was a little disappointed about the way he described me. I talked to a couple of people about my behavior during the Dore Alley festival and it seems that Mister Marcus was the only one who interpreted my attitude as "power-mad." Perhaps Mister Marcus thinks the members of Powerhouse security should stand at attention with eyes straight ahead for eight hours. But it was a street festival; everyone was having fun and even though the security of the patrons of the street festival was my main concern, I was enjoying myself as well. This was the first Dore Alley festival I've seen and I met a lot of interesting people. I'm already looking forward to next year's party.

In answer to Mister Marcus's criticism for not knowing anything about the leather community: so I'm the new guy. Is this how you welcome newcomers? By making them look stupid for not knowing everything about your group? Then it's no wonder your numbers are getting smaller. I've met plenty of individuals in San Francisco with leather interests that I thought were great people, but if your attitude is any indication of SF's leather "community," I'm not sure I care to be more familiar with it.

Buck Jenkins  
San Francisco

### Shame on Mister Marcus

Regarding Mister Marcus's August 3 column: Right you are Mr. Marcus. Anyone who didn't enjoy Dore Alley, it was their fault. Or, maybe it was some jaded crotchety queen who was trying to get preferential treatment.

I was inside Powerhouse, standing near the back steps, when Miss Marcus attempted to enter through the back door. The doorman told him it was an exit only. Marcus became bitter and rude. Why? Undoubtedly because he was not acknowledged as the leather queen he is. Exactly who was drunk on their own power Marcus — the doorman doing his job or the cranky columnist with a superiority complex? Shame on you, Miss Marcus.

If knowing about "San Francisco leather people" is gauged by whether or not you recognize Mister Marcus, a large percentage of the gay community would fail. Perhaps your role should be as an ambas-

sador for San Francisco's Leather Community, Marcus, not as a sharp-tongued hypocrite looking to perpetuate your own inflated sense of self importance.

John Hlavin  
San Francisco

[Mister Marcus responds: I certainly have no qualms about Buck Jenkins doing his job at the Powerhouse on Dore Alley fair day. I only pointed out that his manner in doing so was rude and unpleasant in spite of his claim to be "enjoying myself as well." One of the first things leather people learn is "manners and respect" and if my criticism seemed unfair, I am guilty of not adhering to that credo.]

### Jeers to Badlands

My own story about the "new" Badlands and why I will never return. Not long after the bar reopened I was in line with several friends. A man came out of the bar and told people in line behind us that they did not need to stand in line, for their friends were already inside. Over our objections they were escorted inside by this "little" man. Once inside the bar we were informed that this man was none other than the owner, Les Natali. When I asked him why he had let these people in before us, he said it was his place and he could do whatever he liked.

A week later Mr. Natali was in line in front of me at Cal Fed. When asked by another person in line how business was, Mr. Natali held up two bags of money and said, "Fucking queens stand in line every night." Such contempt for the customers and community he serves is appalling. That is why I will never, ever, spend another day or dollar in this man's bar.

Peter Keating  
San Francisco

### Thanks for review

Thank you for sending someone out to review "Club Inferno," (Sunday nights 8 p.m. @ Paradise Lounge.) The ever dwindling number of independent theater troupes like ours rely on the support of local press to get the word out ["Guided tour through Hell," August 3].

I'd like to respond to the reviewer's question: "But can you tell me why poor Judy Garland gets stuck with the betrayers (sic)?" The answer is because, as the character repeats several times, she "sold her soul to climb the ladder" and ends up lost in Hell. The composers view, as do I, that because Garland lived her life at the beck and call of first her mother, then studio heads, and lastly men, she betrayed her true self. She died nearly broke, unhappy, estranged from her children, drug-addicted, anorexic, sitting on a toilet seat. I hope that answers your question.

Connie Champagne  
San Francisco

### You blew it!

Over 5,000 queers from all over North America and Europe sang their hearts out for a week in San Jose, and you didn't cover it.

The Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses holds a festival every four years, and this July, over 100 choruses took over San Jose. They sang in the convention center, the center for the performing arts, the civic auditorium, and in outdoor venues around the city. And it was fabulous! Think of Pride day lasting a whole week, and you'll get some idea of the joy and excitement this event generated. The streets and hotels of San Jose were filled with gays and lesbians, but the B.A.R. was missing.

What happened? Was it too much trouble to send a reporter down highways 101 or 280 to cover this important event? Did the fact that it happened in San Jose, not San Francisco, deter you?

It's too bad. I'm sure your reporter would have been as entertained, moved, and inspired as I was. Your readers could have shared in this fantastic event. And you even would have gotten a scoop when Nell Carter talked about her female partner during the closing ceremonies.

San Jose is part of the Bay Area. If you don't want to report outside the city limits of San Francisco, I suggest you change the name of your paper.

Robert Ristelhueber  
San Jose, California

[The arts editor responds: "GALA Choruses' Festival 2000 Singing their way to San Jose" ran in our July 20 issue.]

Send letters to the Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Letters must be signed, and include an address and daytime phone number for verification purposes only. Unsigned letters will not be printed. E-mail letters are accepted at [BARpaper@aol.com](mailto:BARpaper@aol.com). Please put "letter to the editor" in the subject line, and also include an address and phone number. Letters may be edited for space.



## POLITICS

# Gays, other minorities line up behind Gore-Lieberman ticket

by Wayne Friday

When Vice President Al Gore delivers his acceptance speech for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination tonight, he will already have locked up the overwhelming support of gays, lesbians, African Americans, possibly Hispanic voters, and many other minorities as he goes into the November 7 election against the Republican nominee, Texas Governor **George W. Bush**.

So, what does Gore talk about as he reaches out to the country's undecided and independent voters in hopes of overtaking the lead that has been lost to the Republican nominee? Gore, who officially stepped out of the shadow of the still immensely popular President **Bill Clinton** during an unofficial "passing of the Democratic Party torch" in Michigan Tuesday, will likely embrace Clinton's successful presiding over the nation's robust economy but will surely send the message that "I'm running for president on my own agenda with my own voice and my own experiences."

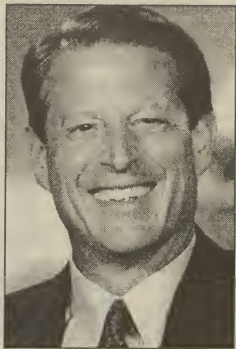
Gore's speech at the Staples Center convention site tonight will be top-heavy with policy specifics because he needs the voting public to know that he has an agenda to lead the country. Look for Gore to speak "very concretely" (Gore's words) in outlining his plan for cutting taxes for middle-class families and altering the Social Security system, championing the environment, and his role in efforts to set time limits and reform welfare.

Gore told reporters this week that he would "speak in detail" tonight because, as he put it, "I think people of America are entitled to understand fully what the issues are that are at stake" in this election. Gore will speak in detail on his plan, for instance to hold regular town hall meetings with ordinary citizens, and, in fact, says that particular pledge "will become a major theme of my presidency."

In past convention speeches — including the address two weeks ago by Bush — specifics were often lacking. Gore himself admitted that acceptance speeches by presidential nominees tend to resort to "the vaguest of generalities and not to challenge the audience with specifics and hard substance — I don't go along with that."

Also, look for Gore to reach out to minorities like gays, discuss health issues such as AIDS (Bush did neither in Philadelphia), and to proudly put forth his vice presidential choice, Connecticut Senator **Joseph Lieberman**, the first Jewish American ever to be nominated on a major national party ticket.

After hearing President Clinton tell America Monday night why they should elect Al Gore to succeed him, Gore advisers were reportedly relieved that the vice president can now use tonight's



Vice President Al Gore

speech to say that while he will continue the economic policies that Clinton installed, creating what even Republicans admit is one of the strongest economic eras in American history. He will stress that he can build upon the economic success of the past eight years, but at the same time, rather than merely continue with Clinton's achievements, it is he, not Bush, who is best suited to be the next president.

Unlike 1988, when then-Vice President **George Bush** was essentially offering himself as the steward of a third term of the **Ronald Reagan** administration, Gore clearly needs to be his own man, with his own ideas and his speech tonight will surely focus on the ideas that he has for America's future, and not just on the accomplishments of the past eight years where he served under a president whose policies were very popular with American voters, but whose personal character remains very much in question.

## The Democratic parties

Yes, like the Republicans earlier this month in Philadelphia, Democrats held parties galore in Los Angeles all week, but also like the Republicans, unless you carried a fat checkbook, you likely missed out on most of them.

It cost Democrats \$25,000 to meet and party with longtime Democratic activist and actress **Whoopi Goldberg**; even more for an invite to the home of **Barbra Streisand** (but, **Brad Pitt** was at that one, with his new wife, **Jennifer Aniston**) that raised nearly \$10 million for the Clinton presidential library.

Someone held a party for Senator **Dianne Feinstein** (one of the biggest Demo stars at the L.A. confab), and then, of course, there was the one that Representative **Loretta Sanchez** threw for her political action committee, Hispanic Unity USA. Sanchez, who milked that controversy for all the publicity she could, eventually gave in and decided not to hold her party at **Hugh Hefner's** Playboy Mansion, pleasing most Democratic Party bigwigs desperately trying to avoid bad publicity for the party. DNC chair **Joe Andrew** and California state chair **Art Tor-**

**res** talked Sanchez into moving her party to Universal Studios. State Senator **John Burton** (D-San Francisco) went ballistic at the pressure the party put on Sanchez, sending Andrew a letter, threatening to withhold money he had apparently raised for the party. Burton's letter sniped "I am a little concerned that if you got the money, the DNC would likely spend it on kerosene for book burnings." Burton railed on that "your actions violate the principles this party stands for, or at least stood for before your ascension; this isn't the Democratic Party I grew up with — it smacks of fascism!"

One Democratic Party big name, clearly annoyed at Burton's outburst, and obviously referring to the senator's penchant for salty language, commented "Well, we now know at least that Burton can put together two sentences without using the 'F' word." A local gay activist, attending the convention, snapped: "Burton for our next mayor? I don't think so; **Carole [Migden]** and **Gavin [Newsom]** are looking better all the time."

And how about that Reform Party? The party's convention resulted in two presidential candidates being nominated. One faction selected **Pat Buchanan**, the gay-hating former Republican, who chose **Ezola Foster**, a conservative African American, as his running mate. Foster, who is an associate of the Reverend **Lou Sheldon**, is quite possibly further to the right than even Buchanan. The other Reform presidential nominee, **John Hagelin**, tapped **John Goldhaber**, a high-tech millionaire from Oakland, as his vice choice. The courts will eventually decide which of the two will carry the Reform banner in November.

George W. Bush likes to showcase Arizona Senator **John McCain** as now being among his "staunchest supporters" but Al Gore is not letting **Bill Bradley** sit idly by during this campaign either. Bradley came out full force for the Gore-Lieberman ticket in L.A. and has reportedly offered to campaign "any time, any place" for Gore. With Bradley now committed, and **Jesse Jackson** revving up support for Gore in the African American community, look for those polls to close up fast.

Al Gore and Joe Lieberman versus George W. Bush and **Richard Cheney** — let the fun, and the unavoidable mudslinging begin.

## Politics and people

Sacramento insiders are predicting that Governor **Gray Davis** will make a judicial appointment from San Francisco's gay and lesbian legal community any week now.

San Jose Mayor **Ron Gonzales** quietly filed for a divorce from his wife of 22 years, **Alvina Gonzales**, last week.

Supervisor **Gavin Newsom** had a few interesting comments about Mayor **Willie Brown** while being interviewed by **Scott Shafer** on cable TV last Thursday.

And how was your week? ▼

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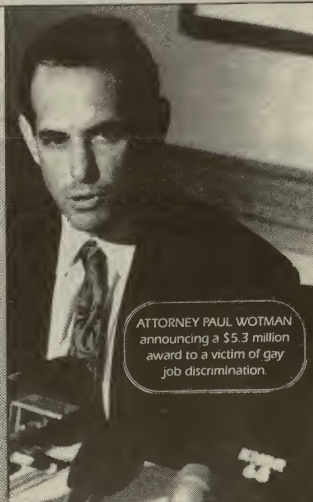
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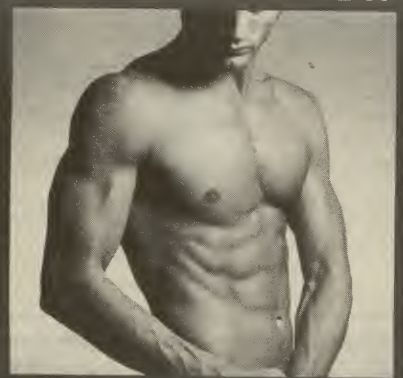
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# Learning 'cultural queerness'

by Paula Martinac

When college classes resume in the fall, the University of Michigan will offer a new course called "How to Be Gay: Male Homosexuality and Initiation," taught by Distinguished Professor of English Language and Literature David Halperin, an out gay man. Predictably, the course's suggestive title sparked a right-wing backlash that began in the spring and has picked up steam this summer. But Halperin's title also raises interesting questions for our community: What does "initiation" into lesbian and gay culture mean? Who determines what our cultural heritage is?

It was no surprise when both the local chapter of the American Family Association and a conservative cadre of politicians targeted Halperin's course for attack. AFA-Michigan head Gary Glenn said he doesn't want taxpayers "to pay for a class to openly recruit and teach teenagers how to engage in a lifestyle of high-risk behavior that is not only illegal, but many

believe immoral." Recently, right-wing state legislators introduced a bill to punish the university financially if the course runs.

Despite its provocative title, Halperin's course doesn't broach the topic of sexual initiation. According to its catalog description, "How to Be Gay" explores the "cultural artifacts and activities that seem to play a prominent role in learning how to be gay." As examples, Halperin lists Hollywood movies, opera, Broadway musicals, drag, diva worship, interior design, and other commonly held stereotypes of contemporary gay male culture. At the very end of the description, Halperin adds that the course will seek "to create the basis for a wider acceptance of the plurality of ways in which people determine how to be gay."

Surprisingly, a small number of gay academics have begun to criticize Halperin, too, but for reasons different from those of the AFA. Some see Halperin as pur-

posely provoking the far right when he could have chosen a more neutral title for his course—say, "Gay Male Literature and Culture in America." "Now that [Halperin] has attracted right-wing attacks," one member of a queer academic e-mail list complained in July, "we are all

compelled to support him." What I find thought provoking about Halperin's course is the idea of cultural initiation. The term comes from the field of anthropology and refers to the myriad ways a community preserves its culture

across generations. Jewish and Italian families, for example, might initiate their offspring into the history and culture of their ancestors through such means as storytelling, music and dance, clothing, food, holiday customs, and religious traditions.

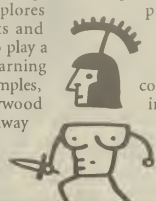
Gays and lesbians, however, constitute a different kind of "ethnicity," one that can't learn its culture through family channels. In fact, many of our biological families have gone out of their way to unteach queerness. We've all heard stories about the effeminate young boy punished for trying on his mother's high heels or the butch teenage girl forced by her parents to femme up.

Although I do believe that we have to learn cultural queerness, I'm troubled by what that actually means. When I was coming out 20 years ago, I "learned" lesbianism from my friends and lovers—all of whom were white and college educated. As a result, I attended Cris Williamson concerts, read *Rubyfruit Jungle*, cut my hair short, and put on men's jeans and shirts. What I learned how to be was not "a lesbian," but a white, urban, middle-class, feminist one. And two decades later, I'm still trying to unlearn a few of those lessons, especially those that were race- and class-privileged, which for years made me oblivious to the issues and concerns of the many other lesbians who didn't look or act just like I did.

The fact that lesbians and gay men come from many different backgrounds makes us unique among "minorities." I'm a Catholic lesbian from Pittsburgh. The dyke next to me at the gay pride march may be an African American whose ancestors were slaves or a recent immigrant from Chile. Each of us has specific cultural markers, specific ways of being queer. Who gets to decide what cultural "initiation" as a lesbian means?

Mostly, it has been white queers calling the shots for everyone else. In what seems to me like a metaphor for how diversity is dealt with in our white-dominated community, Professor Halperin tackled the term "plurality" onto his course description at the end. The course itself seems to be pitched to those who share Halperin's specific cultural references as a white gay man.

Pluralism remains one of the greatest challenges we face. If someone offered a course in how to be a member of a queer community made up of many communities, that would be a course for all of us to take. ▼



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## HISTORY LESSON

# Frederick the Great

by Wik Wikholm

August 17, 1786 (214 years ago this week): Prussian sodomite King Frederick the Great dies after a 46-year rule.

Frederick the Great was such a complicated man that one biographer dubbed him "The Magnificent Enigma." He was a warrior who championed tolerance, a humanist who started wars that killed hundreds of thousands, and a sodomite who ruled a land where sex between men was punishable by death.

Frederick earned the title "the Great" by building his German kingdom's army into the conquering terror of 18th century Europe. But as a child, he showed few signs of military prowess. His father, King Frederick William I, wanted his son to grow into a fighting Prussian, but young Frederick preferred the French novels and music he learned about from his tutors to the military lessons ordered by his father. The king regularly thrashed his son to force him to toughen up. Frederick, still less than 10 years old, surrendered to the king's demand that he excel in daily military drills, and he learned to hide from his father when he played the flute and read his favorite books. Still, the beatings continued.

In 1730, the 18-year-old prince colluded with two soldiers, one his friend, the other his lover, to escape from his father and flee to England. The king discovered the plot, and sent soldiers to arrest the three. Frederick's friend escaped, but the soldiers captured the prince and his lover, Lieutenant Hans von Katte, and jailed them.

The king had long believed that his son and Katte were lovers, but what enraged him now was their disloyalty to him. After a military tribunal convicted Katte of desertion, the king ordered the lieutenant killed. On the morning of the execution, Frederick William dispatched soldiers to his son's cell to force him to watch Katte die. Frederick fainted in front of his cell's window moments before an executioner chopped off his lover's head in the courtyard below. The king considered killing Frederick, but friends dissuaded him. Instead, he forced his son into a year's service as a low-level bureaucrat to humiliate him.

Katte's death showed Frederick that he could not escape his father's control, so when Frederick William ordered him to marry a noblewoman three years after the execution, he complied, though he told friends that he detested the idea. The 1733 wedding cemented a political alliance, but the bride

and groom disliked each other. Although Frederick claimed that they tried, the couple never produced an heir.

In 1740, Frederick William died and the crown prince became king. Just after he took the throne, Frederick issued a flurry of orders that made Prussia more humane. Inspired by the Enlightenment philosophy expressed in the French books he loved, the king outlawed censorship of the press and encouraged religious tolerance. Even Jews, a people excluded from much of life in Europe at the time, enjoyed new freedoms.

At first, Frederick's rule seemed to promise a more comfortable existence for the Prussian people, but Frederick plunged Prussia into war within a year of his coronation. Frederick had absorbed his father's vision of Prussia as a great power and invaded neighboring Silesia, a wealthy country, to expand Prussia's borders and to help pay for a larger military. After two years of fighting, Silesia fell.

The Silesian campaign was only the first of many wars of territorial expansion that Frederick won, but the Prussian people paid dearly. Commerce stagnated under army and navy financial demands and taxes were raised even on the poor. But the financial costs were small compared with the price in human lives. In a single bloody year, 1759, 60,000 soldiers died on the Prussian side alone, a staggering loss for a country inhabited by less than 3 million people.

Frederick's battlefield success-

es earned him the fear and respect of many of Europe's other monarchs, but his royal court provoked rumors and jokes. At Sans Souci, his Potsdam palace, he rarely invited women to court, and his wife was never welcome. The all-male environment he created was infamous for homoerotic banter, and Frederick's own sexual affairs with men were an open secret. The worst punishment he suffered was the knowledge that his sexual predilections drew snickers among his fellow royals.

Had Frederick been a common sodomite, or "warm brother" as Prussia's sodomites were called, he could have been executed. In spite of his power to change it, the law that mandated the death penalty for sodomy stayed on the books throughout Frederick's reign.

Frederick the Great died of a fever on August 17, 1786. He left behind an army 180,000 strong and more than 30 volumes of original writing. His nation had doubled in size during his rule, and the liberal reforms he championed saved his subjects from torture and censorship. The more humane climate may have reduced the number of sodomy arrests, but since conviction could still mean death, Prussia's warm brothers had little reason to mourn the passing of their sodomite king. ▼

Wik Wikholm produces [gayhistory.com](http://gayhistory.com), an introduction to modern gay history. He can be reached on the site's discussion boards, or by e-mail at [wik@gayhistory.com](mailto:wik@gayhistory.com). For more Past Out, visit [www.planetout.com](http://www.planetout.com).

## Herman

◀ page 2

of Harry Low, is on its way to rebuilding public confidence and employee morale."

Low also left the commission recently, as he was named the new state insurance commissioner by Governor Gray Davis.

Herman pointed out that a blue ribbon task force created last year by Mayor Willie Brown has made several recommendations to improve the HRC.

In addition to certifying companies for minority contracts, HRC investigates discrimination complaints in the city and administers the city's landmark equal benefits ordinance.

In his race for the school board, Herman said he's picked up several endorsements, among his supporters are Assemblywoman Carole Migden, San Francisco Supervisors Leslie Katz, Mark Leno, Barbara Kaufman, Michael Yaki, and Gavin Newsom, and most of the members of the community college board.

As for his campaign, Herman said he expects to speak before several neighborhood groups between now and Election Day.

"I've been talking with leaders in the Jewish community, leaders in the gay community, leaders in education, and other minority leaders with whom I've built coalitions over the years and I'm building my base on those," he said. ▼

### Suggested reading

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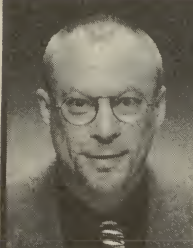
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# More robberies in the Castro

by Jane Warner

**9**00 block of Dolores, August 12, 11:30 p.m.: Two women walking to their car were approached by two men, one of whom pulled a handgun from his waistband and shouted, "Give me your bags." One of the women screamed. The gunman pistol whipped her, knocking her to the ground, shouting, "Shut up, bitch." The suspects took both women's purses and fled to a nearby four door sedan driven by another man. The injured woman was treated by paramedics for injuries. Both suspects are described as African American; only one has a full description: 5 feet 8 inches tall, 20-25 years old, wearing a black bandanna, shorts, and braided hair. The other suspect wore a blue denim jacket and carried a silver handgun. There is no description of the driver.

The suspects in this case may or may not be linked to other robberies in the area where similar descriptions of young men were given. Castrogoers are advised to avoid walking late at night, to remove all jewelry, to keep credit cards and identification separate from your wallet, and to keep \$10-\$15 of "giveaway" money in ones. Don't carry a purse. Additionally, do exactly as you're told if you are approached and don't try to fight.

## Treatment, interrupted

August 7, 12:00 p.m., Castro and 18th streets: A man was found

screaming on the corner of 18th and Castro that he needed to be locked up. He told responding officers that he was wanted in Washington state for the rape of a 4-year-old, but a warrant check proved negative. The man was taken to San Francisco General Hospital after telling officers, "I have the urge to rape a little kid again." Further checks revealed that the man was on active parole for the rape of a minor. One of the conditions of his parole was that he did not leave Washington state. Officers took the man from the hospital to jail and booked him on parole violation and failure to register as a sex offender in California. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

## MCC-SF

◀ page 1

erend Penny Nixon, MCC-SF co-pastor, told the B.A.R., referring to Walling's request that the ambulance arrive with its lights off. Nixon added that perhaps Walling was concerned with waking neighbors in the Castro neighborhood.

Walling was on vacation and not available for comment. Nixon said the incident had been hard on her. "She was so traumatized that I'm speaking for her," Nixon told the B.A.R. "I think she did everything she could."

Mitulski also was on vacation, Nixon said.

Nixon said she does not know whether Walling or other staff on site at the shelter - named Matt's Place after slain Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard - had CPR or first aid certification. Church officials and some shelter supporters have been reluctant to discuss the incident, allegedly out of concern that there will be further protests about other shelter programs for queer youth in the Castro.

However, Larkin Street Youth Services' Lark-Inn, which houses up to 40 homeless high-risk youth

nightly at their new Tenderloin facility, requires CPR and other training. And according to the San Francisco Department of Public Health, they will require such training in their contract with the Ark of Refuge, which plans to operate a new city-funded housing facility at 2500 Market Street later this year.

Until the San Francisco Medical Examiner's office completes its investigation, which will likely take several more weeks, no one can say with any certainty whether Oliver had in fact suffered an overdose from heroin or some

other narcotic, though the attending physician had termed the death "opiate-related" before releasing Oliver's remains for transport to a local crematorium.

With over 500 congregants, the MCC-SF primarily serves the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. The church provides a wide range of social service and other community programs, including HIV/AIDS prevention meetings, social services, food programs for the hungry, health and wellness programming, and programming in the performing arts. ▼

## Transcript of 911 call

911: Rescue, may I help you?

MCC: Yeah, hi. I've got somebody here vomiting blood.

911: Okay, what's your address?

MCC: 150 Eureka Street.

Please, no lights.

911: Okay, and uh, how old is this person?

MCC: Excuse me?

911: How old is the person?

MM: Uh ... 23.

911: How long has this been going on for? Is he male or a female?

MCC: Just started. Male. He's vomiting and, um, I can hear it in his throat. I put him on his side.

911: Is he ... breathing all right?

MCC: Uh, he's vomiting and he, and it's ...

911: And is he conscious?

MCC: I don't know.

911: What do you mean, "You don't know?"

MCC: I mean I can't wake him up.

911: Okay, uh what's his address? I mean [your] phone number? 865-2741?

MCC: 2741.

[Brief pause].

911: What caused it? Do you know?

MCC: I don't know, maybe OD, I don't know.

911: I mean, "maybe"? Was he taking drugs, do you know?

Er.

MCC: He hasn't been [taking any here] here, but um he was complaining about not feeling well and I thought ... um

[sigh] ... and I've been kind of like, checking in on him every couple of minutes and ...

911: How long has he been there for?

MCC: Um, he's been here all night.

911: He's at 150 Eureka?

MCC: Yes.

911: OK, did you try to shake him up, wake him or anything?

MCC: Yes.

911: And he can't, he's not moving?

MCC: No.

911: Can you tell if he's breathing all right?

MCC: Well, he's breathing heavily, but he's got vomit in his throat.

911: Okay, Can you clear it out at all?

MCC: Um I, I [sigh] I don't know. [nervous laughter].

Yes [unintelligible].

911: I mean, keep him on his side. Try to keep him on his side...

MCC: Yeah I, I have been.

911: And just monitor his breathing then right now.

MCC: Uh huh

911: And we're sending people on the way right now.

MCC: Thank you.

911: Do you have medications or anything that he's taken?

MCC: No, I don't think so.

911: Okay. Okay. Uh, If something changes, please, just get back to us, okay.

MCC: Thank you so much.

911: Thanks. Bye.

MCC: Bye. ▼



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Breaking all the rules

## Barebacking, top to bottom, part one

by Terry Beswick

It's an old taboo. Anal intercourse, that much-maligned yet inexorably relished act, is not widely considered a topic for polite dinner conversation.

As a practical matter, it involves the insertion of an adult male's penis into the rectum of another adult.

The sexual act has been practiced not only among gay men the world over for all of recorded history, but by a significant proportion of heterosexual men and women as well, who attest to the physical sensations of anal intercourse or who simply use it as an alternative to penile-vaginal intercourse to prevent conception.

In the gay community, many men regard the anatomical struc-

tions among gay and bisexual men in San Francisco, the city's Department of Public Health issued a groundbreaking "11-point action plan," designed to turn this dangerous new trend around.

As reported in last week's Bay Area Reporter, DPH's new estimates of annual HIV infections in San Francisco, ranging between 750 and 900, were based on several key "indicator" studies, and almost all pointed to one inescapable fact: in the last few years, gay men have been increasingly engaging in unprotected anal intercourse.

Researchers point to various factors that may be feeding the shift in behavior, but the evidence all points to one underlying historic event: the introduction in the mid-1990s of HIV therapies, including protease inhibitors and other drugs which, when used in

to use male latex condoms, CDC recommends using female condoms.

In the absence of hard data, and under pressure from funding sources, public health officials, HIV prevention organizations, and physicians have been reluctant to talk about the relative risks of infection among various sex acts, a fact that has unfortunately left gay and bisexual men to figure things out for themselves.

With their new action plan, DPH officials are acknowledging that gay men in San Francisco are "shutting down" to the old "safe sex" messages, and barebacking is a reality of daily life, requiring a new approach.

"Ownership," is the first point in the plan, which emphasizes the use of condoms for HIV-positive tops during sex with HIV-negative bottoms. "Take ownership of the

spects all parties concerned – whatever their carefully considered choices. In other words, two well-informed, consenting adults – whether both HIV-negative, both HIV-positive, or of different or unknown serostatus – come to a mutual agreement of what practices they will engage in, and then stick to it.

With this series, "Barebacking, top to bottom," the B.A.R. next week will outline the methods used by men who bareback to reduce their risk of becoming infected or re-infected with HIV, or infecting or re-infecting their partner – and what researchers and educators have to say about those methods.

And finally, the series will explore DPH's 11-point action plan and discuss community response to it. ▼

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**"The bottom didn't give a reason" for deciding to bareback, the young man, who said he has been positive since he was 16, continued. "It was a very spontaneous decision; there was no discussion. He's 20 and he's old enough to make those decisions. If he's that afraid then he shouldn't be having sex period. He can't hold me responsible."**

tures which make anal sex not only possible, but deeply pleasurable, as one of nature's greatest gifts.

Nowadays, anal intercourse is increasingly regarded by scientists, physicians, and other learned people as a normal sexual act between consenting adults – either between men, women, or a man and a woman. In our culture, modern intellectual understanding, acceptance, and appreciation of the act, its virtues, and hazards have grown commonplace.

And yet for centuries, the ancient method of coupling has been culturally condemned by religious zealots, with particular vehemence directed at its male practitioners, backed by laws of the state or various politically influential sects. In some parts of the world, men who copulate with other men may be imprisoned or even put to death, and in our own society, the act alone can justify expulsion from the military. In some states, "sodomy" is illegal for men, while in others, it is illegal for everyone.

And when practiced without the proper use of a condom, it is also one of the most effective ways to transmit the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the virus that can cause AIDS.

It is within this cultural and historic backdrop that health officials and the HIV and gay communities in San Francisco are being forced to revisit the old taboo in light of new scientific evidence of what has been widely known but little-discussed.

After nearly 20 years of living with the HIV epidemic under the mantra, "use a condom every time," more and more HIV-positive as well as HIV-negative guys are choosing to bareback, i.e. fuck without a condom.

Last week, in the wake of controversy over preliminary estimates indicating a significant rise in the number of new HIV infec-

combination, can successfully reduce an HIV-infected person's viral load to undetectable levels.

In communities like San Francisco with relatively widespread access to advanced HIV care, the death rate from AIDS has dropped precipitously.

In short, people are not as afraid of AIDS as they used to be, and are increasingly willing to take the risk of HIV infection.

"Just last night, a friend and I had unprotected sex where he was the bottom and I was the top," one 24-year-old HIV-positive man, who asked not to be named, told the B.A.R. last week.

"[The bottom] didn't give a reason" for deciding to bareback, the young man, who said he has been positive since he was 16, continued. "It was a very spontaneous decision; there was no discussion. He's 20 and he's old enough to make those decisions. If he's that afraid then he shouldn't be having sex period. He can't hold me responsible."

His partner had previously told him that he was HIV-negative. The 24-year-old had also previously disclosed his status to his partner.

Interestingly, the HIV-positive man said that his doctor advises him to use condoms not only during anal sex, but during oral sex as well.

"I said, 'Well, I've never done that,'" he added.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which provides about \$10 million of San Francisco's \$16 million HIV prevention budget, "recommends sexual abstinence or sexual contact only with a partner known to be uninfected as the best methods of protection against the sexual transmission of HIV and other STDs." In addition, CDC recommends that male latex condoms be used consistently and correctly, with or without a spermicide. If for some reason it is not possible

epidemic, implementing culturally specific, community-driven responses. Prevention is not done to a community, but by and with a community."

A year and a half ago, in its February 1999 issue, POZ magazine published an article by University of California, San Francisco doctoral student Michael Scarce which listed eight different methods that men who had made the decision to bareback could use to reduce their risk of infection or re-infection.

Scarce told the B.A.R. that he took a lot of flak from HIV prevention organizations around the country after the article was published, and compared their concerns to those who suggest needle exchanges encourage drug use – a contention that has been disproven by numerous studies.

In the context of HIV prevention, harm reduction, a model more commonly employed in the U.S. for drug addiction treatment, is seen as a realistic alternative to abstinence. The harm reduction model assumes thorough education of the known risks of various sex acts, and re-

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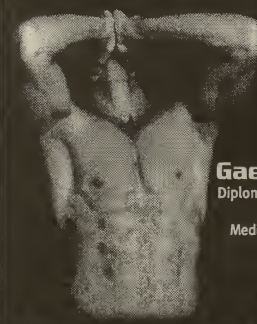
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# Housing in exchange for work?

## 'ShelterOne' unit unveiled

by Katie Szymanski

Could "Habitat for the Homeless" be a true housing solution, one where "homeless people who push shopping carts all day" are removed from sight and the public is encouraged to "imagine litter-free, tree-lined streets, with no more street cleaning tickets, and more parking spaces" — as stated by the program's literature?

Developed by two San Francisco failed-mayoral-turned-supervisor candidates — Jim Reid, who moved into District 6 to run for a seat there, and J.R. Manuel, who is seeking the District 10 seat — "Habitat" provides 100 square foot structures, called "ShelterOne" to homeless people in exchange for their 24 hours of work per week to keep city blocks clean. The plan is supposed to eliminate the need for city street cleaners while simultaneously providing food, volunteer jobs, and housing to the homeless. Reid, incidentally, has been temporarily disqualified from the race for supervisor due to invalid signatures on his petition (see story below).

"I'm real proud of these homes," Reid, the openly gay retired contractor and the brain power behind the habitat idea, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It's something we need to build a lot of."

Indeed, entering these small slabs of wood and concrete proves that ingenuity can still exist, as demonstrated by last Friday's public display of a Habitat cubicle, a fully-equipped miniature home that could easily pass for any studio apartment in Manhattan. The "Habitat for the Homeless" structure — not to be confused with "Habitat for Humanity," another building project for the homeless — has a full kitchen, bathroom, and sleeping area with a loft bed. The floors are tiled. The area under the loft bed contains a work space where a corner desk fits. Quaint windows provide views and ventilation. The outside looks like a condensed version of the all-American dream house. It is earthquake, fire, and sound proof. The home is indeed more than a permanent form of the temporary camps we see all over town, offering a shower, security, and some physical comfort to those who would choose to live there.

But there are problems with the proposed Habitat program, including the fact that it automatically excludes more than 50 percent of the city's homeless population. Both the program and the home itself are not accessible to the disabled, who make up 25 percent of San Francisco's homeless, according to Jennifer Friedenbach, project coordinator for the Coalition on Homelessness. And



Jim Reid, candidate for District 6 supervisor, unveiled the ShelterOne unit that is being promoted by his group, Habitat for the Homeless. The 100 square foot cubicle contains a bathroom, kitchen, eating and sleeping area.

because there is only one bed, these first models are intended for single people only. An additional 25 percent of the homeless are from intact families, according to Friedenbach, and those numbers do not include statistics on couples.

"There are already those barriers to shelter for people with disabilities and people from families or couples," Friedenbach told the *B.A.R.* "We would hope that future projects would address these populations most in need of services."

Finally, exchanging shopping carts and work for a home violates every person's right to have housing and personal property, according to Friedenbach.

"We would oppose any kind of program where confiscation of people's property would increase," she said. "Furthermore, people should have housing rights just like anybody else. If there is work in exchange for housing and someone becomes unable to do work, do they lose their housing? We'd want to make sure that these basic rights were protected."

Reid, who spent nine days last year living in the city's homeless shelters, says he knows his plan "will not work for 90 percent of the homeless out there."

"But for those it does help, it's a real chance at decent shelter. People with their own room have a lot more dignity and self-confidence."

But the question remains: would able-bodied homeless people actually want to live in the Habitat concoctions? Or is Reid simply taking matters into his own hands and speaking for a population that may opt for street freedom and mobility over what some have likened to indentured servitude?

"It is an idea I just came up with," said Reid, likening the plan to similar structures in the Soviet Union and Japan. "Most homeless people at first said 100 square feet was too small. But after seeing the model on display, they want to know where they can sign up."

For Mike, a man who lives in a South of Market alley, the working conditions tied to the plan interfere with his personal obligations. Mike is the sole caregiver for his disabled friend, who relies on him during the days and sleeps next to him at night.

"I'm already a little over-extended," he said. "And if I got this house, I wouldn't have time to work for money. I'd be too busy working for free."

There are behavior conditions tied in to the housing as well. Applicants must be clean and sober, and hanging out on the street will take on a different meaning than it would for the average city resident.

"I hope I'll be getting people who know this could be their last chance," said Reid. "And that if they choose to have visitors, they either stay inside or go somewhere else."

Reid still has to get city approval for his project, and he hopes to build a series of units into a community, either in the back of area churches, or beneath freeway underpasses. Some questions remain unanswered, such as whether cubicle residents would be considered "tenants," despite the fact that they wouldn't pay rent.

Since Reid's plan aims to enroll 1,000 to 2,000 homeless people, he will probably fill those slots with willing and able participants. Whether this will actually get shopping carts off the streets and convince the city to fire its street cleaners is another matter entirely.

But the fact remains that simply by building this cubicle, Reid has already done more than many city officials when it comes to affordable housing. It was the city, after all, that closed the Mission Rock shelter last year to make room for Pacific Bell Park's parking lot. ▼

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## Reid, others, disqualified from supervisor race

by Katie Szymanski

Three candidates were disqualified from the race for city supervisor due to invalid signatures, according to the online news source the District 6 Sentinel. Robert O'Malley and Jim Reid in District 6, and Alvin Li in District 3, were informed by the Elections Department last week that the valid signatures on their petitions were not enough to qualify the men as candidates.

Reid, the former mayoral candidate recently accused of carpet-bagging by moving to District 6 to run for a seat there, is an openly gay man, a renter, a homeless advocate, and a carpenter by trade. On Monday, August 14, he told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he planned to fight the Elections Department's decision and that he still considers himself a candidate.

"In my case, they disqualified me for signatures from homeless people who do not have permanent addresses but are on the voter roles," said Reid. "I need to go to Superior Court to prove the validity of these signatures, which I plan to do."

Assuring voters "not to worry over a technicality," Reid said he plans to be back on the ballot within a week.

"The race isn't over until it's over," he said.

A representative from the Department of Elections confirmed that Reid and others could follow a procedure for contesting the signature tally.

"In fact," said the DOE representative, "Jim Reid has been here twice today." ▼

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**3. Caregivers of young children receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy.**

**4. Patients should be informed that when ZERIT is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of adverse events may be higher than when ZERIT is used alone. These patients should be followed closely.**

**5. Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using ZERIT. They should be advised that ZERIT therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown at this time.**

**6. Patients should be informed that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection.**

**7. Drug Interactions:** Zidovudine may competitively inhibit the intracellular phosphorylation of stavudine. Therefore, use of zidovudine in combination with ZERIT is not recommended. (See **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**).

**8. Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility:** In 2-year carcinogenicity studies in mice and rats, stavudine was noncarcinogenic at doses which produced exposures (AUC) 39 and 168 times, respectively, human exposure at the recommended clinical dose. Benign and malignant liver tumors in mice and rats and malignant urinary bladder tumors in male rats occurred at levels of exposure 250 (mice) and 732 (rats) times human exposure at the recommended clinical dose.

**9. Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Ames, E. coli reverse mutation, or the CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte clastogenesis and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. In the *in vitro* assays, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/mL, without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of transformed foci in mouse fibroblast cells (concentrations of 25 to 2500 µg/mL, with and without metabolic activation). In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at dosages of 600 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days.**

**10. No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures (based on C<sub>max</sub>) up to 216 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day.**

**11. Pregnancy:** Pregnancy "Category C." Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on C<sub>max</sub>) up to 399 and 183 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unossified or incomplete ossification of sternbra, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early rat neonatal mortality (birth to 4 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

**12. Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry:** To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to stavudine and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling (800) 258-4263.

**13. Nursing Mothers:** Studies in lactating rats demonstrated that stavudine is excreted in milk. Although it is not known whether stavudine is excreted in human milk, there exists the potential for adverse effects from stavudine in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed to discontinue nursing if they are receiving stavudine. This instruction is consistent with the Centers for Disease Control recommendation that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

**14. Pediatric Use:** Use of stavudine in pediatric patients is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in adults with additional pharmacokinetic and safety data in pediatric patients.

Adverse events that were reported to occur in 105 pediatric patients receiving

R ONLY

ZERIT (stavudine) 2 mg/kg/day for a median of 6.4 months in study ACTG 240 were generally similar to those reported in adults.

Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients ranging in age from 5 weeks to 15 years and in weight from 2 to 43 kg after 1V, or oral administration of single doses and BID regimens (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**, Table 1 in full prescribing information).

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

**Adults:** ZERIT therapy has been associated with peripheral neuropathy, which can be severe, is dose related, and occurs more frequently in patients being treated with neurotoxic drug therapy, including didanosine, in patients with advanced HIV infection, or in patients who have previously experienced peripheral neuropathy.

Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy, which is usually manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, patients may tolerate resumption of treatment at one-half the dose (see **DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION**). If neuropathy recurs after resumption of ZERIT, permanent discontinuation of ZERIT should be considered.

When ZERIT is used in combination with other agents with similar toxicities, the incidence of adverse events may be higher than when ZERIT is used alone. Patients treated with ZERIT in combination with didanosine may be at increased risk for adverse events such as pancreatitis, peripheral neuropathy, and liver function abnormalities. (See **WARNINGS** and **PRECAUTIONS**).

Selected clinical events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in a controlled monotherapy trial (Study A455-019) are provided in Table 1.

Adverse Events	Percent (%)	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
Headache	54	49
Diarrhea	50	44
Peripheral Neurologic Symptoms/Neuropathy	52	39
Rash	40	35
Nausea and Vomiting	39	44

<sup>a</sup> Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

Pancreatitis was observed in three of the 412 adult patients who received ZERIT in a controlled monotherapy study.

Selected clinical adverse events that occurred in antiretroviral naive adult patients receiving ZERIT from two controlled combination studies are provided in Table 2.

Adverse Events	Percent (%)			
	START 1		START 2	
	ZERIT+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=100)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=102)	ZERIT+ didanosine+ indinavir (n=102)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=103)
Nausea	43	63	53	67
Diarrhea	34	16	45	39
Headache	25	26	46	37
Rash	18	13	30	18
Vomiting	18	33	30	35
Peripheral Neurologic Symptoms/Neuropathy	8	7	21	10

<sup>a</sup> START 2 compared two triple-combination regimens in 205 treatment-naïve patients. Patients received either ZERIT (40 mg BID) plus didanosine plus indinavir or zidovudine plus lamivudine plus indinavir.

<sup>b</sup> Duration of stavudine therapy = 48 weeks.

Pancreatitis resulting in death was observed in one patient who received ZERIT plus didanosine plus indinavir in the START 2 study.

Selected laboratory abnormalities reported in a controlled monotherapy study (Study A455-019) are provided in Table 3.

Parameter	Percent (%)	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
AST (SGOT)	13	10
ALT (SGPT) (>5.0 x ULN)	13	11
Amylase (>5.0 x ULN)	14	13

<sup>a</sup> Data presented for patients for whom laboratory evaluations were performed.

<sup>b</sup> Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

ULN = upper limit of normal.

Selected laboratory abnormalities reported in two controlled combination studies are provided in Tables 4 and 5.

Parameter	Percent of Patients			
	START 1		START 2	
	ZERIT+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=100)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=102)	ZERIT+ didanosine+ indinavir (n=102)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=103)
Bilirubin (>2.6 x ULN)	7	6	16	8
SGOT (AST) (>5 x ULN)	5	2	7	7
SGPT (ALT) (>5 x ULN)	6	2	8	5
GGT (>5 x ULN)	2	2	5	2
GGT (>2 x ULN)	6	3	5	5
Amylase (>2 x ULN)	4	<1	8	2

ULN = upper limit of normal.

Parameter	Percent (%)			
	START 1		START 2	
	ZERIT+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=100)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=102)	ZERIT+ didanosine+ indinavir (n=102)	zidovudine+ lamivudine+ indinavir (n=103)
Total Bilirubin	65	60	68	55
SGOT (AST)	42	20	53	20
SGPT (ALT)	40	20	50	18
GGT	15	8	28	12
Lipase	27	12	26	19
Amylase	21	19	31	17

**Observed During Clinical Practice:** The following events have been identified during post-approval use of ZERIT (stavudine). Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to their seriousness, frequency of reporting, causal connection to ZERIT, or a combination of these factors.

**Body as a Whole:** abdominal pain, allergic reaction, and chills/fever.

**Digestive Disorders:** anorexia.

**Hematologic Disorders:** anemia, leukopenia, and thrombocytopenia.

**Liver:** lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see **WARNINGS**), hepatitis and liver failure.

**Musculoskeletal:** myalgia.

**Nervous System:** insomnia.

**Pediatric Patients:** Adverse reactions and serious laboratory abnormalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequency to those seen in adult patients.

**OVERDOSSAGE**

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage revealed no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic overdosage include peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. Stavudine can be removed by hemodialysis; the mean  $\pm$  SD hemodialysis clearance of stavudine is 120  $\pm$  18 mL/min. Whether stavudine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis has not been studied.

**DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION**

The interval between doses of ZERIT should be 12 hours. ZERIT may be taken without regard to meals.

**Adults:** The recommended dose based on body weight is as follows:

40 mg twice daily for patients  $\geq$  60 kg.

30 mg twice daily for patients < 60 kg.

**Pediatrics:** The recommended dose for pediatric patients weighing less than 30 kg is 1 mg/kg/dose, given every 12 hours. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the recommended adult dosage.

**Dosage Adjustment:** Patients should be monitored for the development of peripheral neuropathy, which is usually manifested by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. These symptoms may be difficult to detect in young children (see **WARNINGS**). If these symptoms develop during treatment, stavudine therapy should be interrupted. Symptoms may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, patients may tolerate resumption of treatment at one-half the recommended dose.

20 mg twice daily for patients  $\geq$  60 kg.

15 mg twice daily for patients < 60 kg.

If neuropathy recurs after resumption of ZERIT, permanent discontinuation of ZERIT should be considered.

**Renal Impairment:** ZERIT may be administered to adult patients with impaired renal function with adjustment in dose as shown in Table 6.

Creatinine Clearance (mL/min)	Recommended ZERIT Dose by Patient Weight	
	$\geq$ 60 kg	< 60 kg
> 50	40 mg every 12 hours	30 mg every 12 hours
26-50	20 mg every 12 hours	15 mg every 12 hours
10-25	20 mg every 24 hours	15 mg every 24 hours

Since urinary excretion is also a major route of elimination of stavudine in pediatric patients, the clearance of stavudine may be altered in children with renal impairment. Although there are insufficient data to recommend a specific dose adjustment of ZERIT in this patient population, a reduction in the dose and/or an increase in the interval between doses should be considered.

**Hemodialysis Patients:** The recommended dose is 20 mg every 24 hours ( $\geq$  60 kg) or 15 mg every 24 hours (< 60 kg), administered after the completion of hemodialysis and at the same time of day on non-dialysis days.

**Method of Preparation:**

**ZERIT (stavudine) for Oral Solution**

Prior to dispensing, the pharmacist must constitute the dry powder with purified water to a concentration of 1 mg stavudine per mL of solution, as follows:

1. Add 202 mL of purified water to the container.

2. Shake container vigorously until the powder dissolves completely. Constitution in this way produces 200 mL (deliverable volume) of 1 mg/mL stavudine solution. The solution may appear slightly hazy.

3. Dispense solution in original container with measuring cup provided. Instruct patient to shake the container vigorously prior to measuring each dose and to store the tightly closed container in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.

**HOW SUPPLIED**

ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules are available in the following strengths and configurations of plastic bottles with child-resistant closures.

Product Strength	Capsule Shell Color	Markings on Capsule (in Black Ink)	Capsules per Bottle	NOC No.
15 mg	Light yellow & dark red	BMS 1964	60	0003-1964-01
20 mg	Light brown	BMS 1965	60	0003-1965-01
30 mg	Light orange & dark orange	BMS 1966	60	0003-1966-01
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 1967	60	0003-1967-01

ZERIT® (stavudine) for Oral Solution is a dye-free, fruit-flavored powder that provides 1 mg of stavudine per mL of solution upon constitution with water. Directions for solution preparation are included on the product label and in the **DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION** section of this insert. ZERIT for Oral Solution (NOC No. 0003-1968-01) is available in child-resistant containers that provide 200 mL of solution after constitution with water.

US Patent No.: 4,978,655

**Storage:** ZERIT Capsules should be stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).

ZERIT for Oral Solution should be protected from excessive moisture and stored in tightly closed containers at controlled room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C). After constitution, store tightly closed containers of ZERIT for Oral Solution in a refrigerator, 36° to 46°F (2° to 8°C). Discard any unused portion after 30 days.



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# AmFAR's Krim gets Medal of Freedom

by Bob Roehr

Nearly 20 years ago, very few researchers even knew what AIDS was. Even fewer had the courage to speak out about it. Dr. Mathilde Krim was one of the first to grasp its terrible implications," said President Clinton.

Krim founded one of the first AIDS agencies in 1983, which merged in 1985 to become the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amFAR). She continues today as the leader of that non-profit organization which supports HIV/AIDS research and education.

The president spoke those words as he awarded Krim the Presidential Medal of Freedom at a White House ceremony last Wednesday, August 9. Among the 14 others so honored were the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Holocaust survivor Simon Wiesenthal, and former Senators George McGovern, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, and the late John Chafee.

"This great honor means very much to me, but I share it with the many people who, over the years, have trusted amFAR with their hopes and worked for or supported it with their energy, dedication, and financial contributions," said

Krim in a written statement.

She mentioned the scientists, AIDS service providers, defenders of human rights, and people living with HIV in her remarks. In closing Krim said, "This award must also remind all of us of those we have already lost to the epidemic, close to half a million of them in this country alone."

But the award was not without its controversy. In the few days between the time the White House announced the award and when it was presented, AIDS advocates urged Krim to turn down the honor.

A letter circulated by POZ magazine publisher Sean Strub and author/playwright/activist Larry Kramer called the Clinton administration's record on AIDS "one of political opportunism, extraordinary cowardice and, repeatedly, symbolism over substance."

It played to Krim's leadership on AIDS issues "to refuse this symbolism by refusing this award." It argued that "most dangerously, it [accepting the award] would send a message that the Clinton-Gore administration's record on AIDS is acceptable. They do not deserve the right to honor you."

Dozens of AIDS advocates and

researchers signed the letter, many with the understanding that it was a private communication to Krim and that their names would not be made public. It was faxed to her over the weekend.

"Mathilde has been such a courageous leader so often, that this was a good opportunity for her to do so again," said Strub. "It wasn't about her, she truly deserves the award," he added. "It's about AIDS and people with AIDS. A lot of us are afraid that this is another example of Clinton's symbolism over substance."

Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS declined to sign the letter. "Whatever differences that one may have with the Clinton administration, the reality is, Dr. Krim deserves that award. It brings recognition at a very high level. I wasn't going to suggest for a second that should be taken away from her."

ACT UP/DC issued a press release recounting "the unfulfilled AIDS promises from Clinton, the man from Hope." It included inaction on needle exchange programs, limited and ineffective prevention programs, and lower funding requests for AIDS research and services than the Republican Congress has approved. ▼

# HRC's Birch addresses Democrat delegates

by Bob Roehr

The Democrats put forth a diverse package of speakers Tuesday, August 15 at their national convention in Los Angeles, including openly lesbian Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, the country's largest gay rights organization.

Predictably, right wing conservatives pounced on the question of inclusiveness for gays and lesbians. "The Democratic Party's 2000 platform clearly embraces the core goals of the radical homosexual activist agenda," charged Richard Lessner, vice president of the right wing organization American Renewal.

He pointed to the fact that the August 15 program included a speech by Birch, "a group that advocates same-sex marriage and agitates against such groups as the Boy Scouts." He asked a question that gays and lesbians wanted to know as well: "Where does Al Gore stand on the agenda being pushed by the radical homosexual activists?"

Birch's address didn't answer the question. She stood at the podium as "a gay American" seeking "simple equality - the equal right to work, raise a family, serve our country in every way and be free from the shackles of brutality and hate. ... Al Gore and Joe Lieberman have taken strong, courageous positions on behalf of equality."

HRC circulated the text of the speech the day before it was delivered. That prompted an "open let-



HRC's Elizabeth Birch

ter" to Birch by Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, who issued his own challenge to Birch as she had to Congressman Jim Kolbe when he spoke before the Republican convention.

Tafel challenged Birch to raise the fact that the Clinton-Gore administration has expelled more gays and lesbians from the military than any other administration.

"Here's your chance to insist that Al Gore reverse his support of DOMA [the Defense of Marriage Act]," he wrote.

"As long as gay parents live in fear that their children might be taken from them, our family is not whole," said Birch. But for some reason, she did not see the solution as being found in allowing gays to marry. The word marriage

did not pass her lips. "It was the most noticeable absence from Birch's speech," said marriage advocate Andrew Sullivan.

Tafel pointed out that Gore has waffled on the Supreme Court decision on the Boy Scouts, refusing to state a position. "If this is a fundamental issue for HRC, demand answers from Al Gore tonight," he pushed.

But the Boy Scouts did not fit into Birch's vision of family and equality, it too went unmentioned.

HRC's press release claimed that Birch was "the first leader of a gay organization to speak at a national political convention." The claim was 20 years too late.

Mel Boozer was president of the Gay Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C., when he electrified the 1980 Democratic National Convention in New York City. He was not a mere speaker but a nominee for vice president, withdrawing his name from consideration.

"We come from towns and cities where our friends are jailed and beaten on the slightest pretext," he said. "We come from churches which have been burned to the ground because they admit us to worship. We come from families which have been torn apart because we have lost our jobs, and we have lost our good names which have been slandered by false accusation, myths, and lies."

"I know what it means to be called a nigger. I know what it means to be called a faggot," said Boozer. "And I can sum up the difference in one word: none." ▼

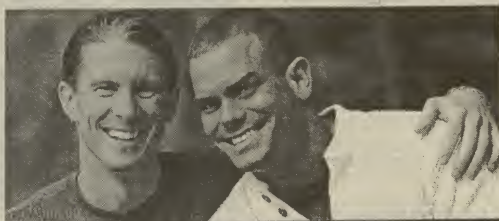
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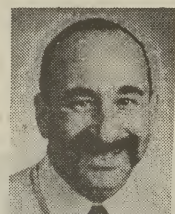
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## Victory Fund

◀ page 1

Fund is a political action committee that is throwing this reception today. The closely related Gay and Lesbian Victory Foundation provides workshops in different cities. They bring in gay people interested in running [for office], or just interested in politics. They set up a little mock campaign, they teach them how to campaign. How to fund raise, time schedules of when you should be doing what, how to get out the vote. On the last day they run a mock campaign between two candidates. They put together a mock plan, and run this campaign. It teaches them the basics of how to get out there, put yourself out there, and run a campaign.

**B.A.R.: Like boot camp?**

Drenner: Exactly, a boot camp for candidates. And they deal a little bit with some gay and lesbian issues that will come up. Like whether to "come out" or not. How to deal with the media. So they get molded. It was wonderful. Inspiring. It made a difference. As we were in the actual campaign in Georgia we would say "let's go to the plan, the Victory plan that was



Gay and lesbian elected officials are introduced by David Mixner, at podium, at the Victory Fund brunch Sunday, August 13 in Los Angeles.

laid out for us."

**B.A.R.: What are you doing at the Democratic National Convention?**

Drenner: Actually we're not going. We're flying back to Atlanta tonight. We have to be at work on Monday morning. We came out to

Palm Springs for the Stonewall Democratic Convention. That was exciting, just to meet so many other gay and lesbian elected officials. Talk to people, and basically tell the story of what we did. How we won. Basically we won because of a few committed individuals, not very much money, but we worked very hard. We went out and shook hands, walked districts, walked our neighborhood four times, people didn't care if we were gay or not. We learned their issues. That was what was important to them, quality representation. Not sexual orientation. And so I proved myself by being out there.

**B.A.R.: But you had your partner at your side?**

Drenner: Absolutely, I walked every neighborhood with her [Suzette La Roche]. Every weekend, every evening. We were out there, visible.

**B.A.R.: What's next?**

Drenner: Even though I have no opponent in November, we still want to provide a strong presence in the election. We're going to be working hard for Al Gore and Joe Lieberman. That will be high on the agenda. And also making contacts within our district. That's where our focus is. We want to represent our district, and the issues it has. Those are education and the environment, the big issues we have. And rebuilding the infrastructure in our district.

**B.A.R.: Who will win Georgia?**

Drenner: [George W.] Bush has been ahead in all the recent polls. Rural Georgia is largely Republican. We're going to be working hard over the next months to get out the gay and lesbian vote. We're going to be working hard to register a lot of young voters, the young generation gay and lesbian voters. I think a lot of them are not registered, many are complacent. They can't remember how bad things were under Reagan-Bush. They've come out under Clinton-Gore. We need to remind them what it might be like with a Republican White House.

**Col. Grethe Cammermeyer, retired**

**B.A.R.: What will your role be at the convention?**

Cammermeyer: I'm a national delegate from the state of Washington. I'm also broadcasting with Gaybc.com. We have 24-hour coverage of the event. We're going to be on the floor.

**B.A.R.: How many gay and lesbian delegates are coming from your state?**

Cammermeyer: I believe we have four. But it is my understanding that close to 200 gay and lesbian delegates from across the country will be attending the convention. So it's a wonderful start.

**B.A.R.: Will Gore-Lieberman carry Washington?**

Cammermeyer: No doubt about it. The Democrats have carried Washington for the last three presidential elections. The cause is right, all of the issues are ones that are of concern to the people in Washington.

**B.A.R.: Is Washington more broadminded than outsiders would think?**

Cammermeyer: There certainly are large clusters that are very liberal, and very Democratic. The area where I was running two years ago [for Congress] was much less liberal. They had been under the control of the Republican Party for a few terms. So there are pockets that are more conservative than others.

**B.A.R.: Is the Northwest hostile to Native Americans?**

Cammermeyer: That is changing a bit. That is mostly a regional problem, based on fishing rights. Now that the salmon have been declared endangered, that has forced the non-Native community to work more closely with the Native community. We're hoping that will, for the first time in 20 years, get something done, rather than lay blame. The Washington state Republican congressional delegation wanted the sovereign status of the Native Americans revoked, and to send in the Marines, if necessary, to get that fishing dispute resolved. But that was opposed by the rest of the Republican Party.

**B.A.R.: The National Republican Party?**

Cammermeyer: Yes, exactly.

**B.A.R.: It's a shame you lost your election. You're such a hero to our community. A superb role model.**

Cammermeyer: Yes, it was 45 to 55 percent. But it taught me the wisdom not to run again. It's all right. I'm now focusing on using my radio broadcast on Gaybc.com where I have a daily show, "Hangin' Out," that I co-host, and also a weekend show where we can have a bully pulpit and reach out, primarily to the gay community, talk about issues, and alert listeners to what we need to pay attention to. So it's a very interesting forum. We've been able to get into areas where people feel they are really alone.

## Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala

**B.A.R.: Why vote Democratic?**

Shalala: Our party is working on issues of concern to the community, and by that I don't mean just AIDS. It means fundamental health issues, access to the health care system, being treated fairly in the health care system. In my department those are the kinds of issues we've worked on. All you have to do is look at their [Republican] convention, and know that they have a narrow view of the world. We're about fairness and opportunity and human rights. I think the community knows that very well. Joseph Lieberman knows what it's like to be a minority in this world. Not just in the United States. He's enormously sensitive to these issues. As Al and Tipper Gore are. So I think his inclusion on the ticket is an enormous boost to our party, and to all the communities that we represent.

**B.A.R.: What can you say to your fellow Arab Americans about a prospective Jewish vice president?**

Shalala: I'll tell you a story. I had lived in New York a very long time, and I went back to Cleveland to see my Lebanese grandmother. And she said to me "Do you ever meet any Jewish people in New York?" I said "Yes, I have many Jewish friends. They believe in family, just like us."

**L.A. City Councilmember Jackie Goldberg**

**B.A.R.: Are you a delegate to the convention?**

Goldberg: No, I'll be on the street with the protesters, picketing every day. I think it is always a good idea to push the Democratic Party away from the right wing. Left to its own accord, it tends to drift to the right. I think [Joseph] Lieberman is a good example of that. That's a big shift to the right. Some of us want to push back, and say remember how you win, you win by paying attention to the issues of the gap between rich and poor, by paying attention to education, funding public education and opposing vouchers, you win by supporting a woman's right to chose. You win by supporting everybody's rights, including lesbians and gay men. Homosexual people and transgender people. Remember who you win by, or you're going to lose.

**B.A.R.: Do you feel conflicted opposing Lieberman, a fellow Jew?**

Goldberg: Not at all. There are Jews I love, and there are Jews I don't love. Being Jewish has nothing to do with his politics. I don't like his politics.

**Lynda Baines Johnson Robb**

**B.A.R.: What would your late father, former President Lyndon Baines Johnson, think of today?**

Robb: I think he would be very excited about being back in California after 40 years, the last time we were here in 1960 he was nominated for vice president on JFK's winning ticket. I think we have a winning team with Gore-Lieberman. And, of course, we need to re-elect my husband, Senator Charles Robb, in Virginia.

**B.A.R.: Did LBJ support gay and lesbian rights?**

Robb: Absolutely. My father always believed in equality. He fought hard, as you know, for civil rights. And that's what we're talking about. Having everybody come out and participate in our society. People weren't as out back then, but my father always supported equality. ▼

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# Queers, allies take part in DNC protests

by Liz Highleyman

On Tuesday, August 15, some 1,000 queers and supporters took to the streets of Los Angeles in a spirited march demanding respect for queer health, queer rights, and queer lives. The demonstration was one of the many surrounding this week's Democratic National Convention.

The march was organized by Queers & Allies, a coalition of organizations including Pride at Work, Transgender Menace of Southern California, San Francisco's Lesbian and Gay Insurrection, and the Ad Hoc Committee for an Open Process. "Silence Equals Death" T-shirts and stickers gave the march a nostalgic air, and several speakers emphasized that ACT UP and Queer Nation had pioneered the type of street activism that has seen a resurgence since the protests against the World Trade Organization in Seattle last November. The early evening demonstration began with a kiss-in at Pershing Park before proceeding to the state and federal buildings.

March organizers maintain that while the queer vote was critical in electing President Clinton and California Governor Gray Davis, the LGBT community has little to show for its efforts on behalf of the Democrats. According to Masen Davis of Transgender Menace, "Republicans and Democrats alike must be held accountable for their actions—or lack thereof."

The demonstration tied together a wide spectrum of issues, from universal health care, accessible HIV treatment, honest sex education in schools, research into the medical needs of transgender people, and harm reduction mea-



Marchers at the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles Monday, August 14, show what a real democracy would be like with puppets and placards.

sures such as needle exchange and medical marijuana, to hate crimes legislation, adoption and custody rights, equal employment benefits, and an end to Immigration and Nationalization Service denial of status to same-sex couples. Organizer Kate Raphael said that the protest represented a new formation of queer groups from different cities united in their agreement that "the assimilationist, pro-law-and-order, pro-corporate gay leadership does not represent us or speak to our issues."

Throughout its duration Tuesday's demonstration was accompanied by scores of Los Angeles police and California Highway Patrol officers. Following a die-in at

the end of the march, police surrounded the demonstrators on all four sides of an intersection, and only after a tense 20 minutes were the organizers able to negotiate with police to allow the protesters to depart.

Tuesday's march was a model of sexual orientation diversity. The protest was co-sponsored by Rise Up/DAN LA, the Los Angeles chapter of the Direct Action Network, which was instrumental in organizing the WTO protests and the World Bank/International Monetary Fund demonstrations in Washington, D.C., in April. Several movement leaders were among the marchers, including Ruckus Society director John Sell-

ers, who was recently held on \$1 million bail following actions in Philadelphia surrounding the Republican National Convention earlier this month, and Green Party Senate candidate Medea Benjamin. Davis said he found while organizing the march that, "heterosexuals want to be our allies, and this is a great sign that they are connecting the issues."

The demonstration also

brought out a sizable "black bloc" contingent, a group consisting mostly of young anarchists who have become the most feared and demonized protesters by the police and the mainstream media – and in some cases by other movement activists – since they were associated with property destruction during last year's Seattle actions. The black bloc in Tuesday's march was largely queer, with several waving pink and black flags. San Francisco's Gilbert Baker was also present, carrying a large eight-color rainbow flag similar to the one flying over Castro and Market.

The Q&A march was one of over 30 actions taking place this week, including a march on Sunday to demand a new trial for Mumia Abu Jamal, the "Human Needs Not Corporate Greed" march on Monday, and the march against police brutality, mass incarceration, and the death penalty on Wednesday. As of Tuesday evening, most events had been peaceful and few arrests had occurred. However, an altercation did take place near the Staples Center convention site Monday night during a concert featuring political rock band Rage Against the Machine. After a small number of protesters threw rocks and bottles at officers, the police forcibly removed the large assembled crowd using batons and pepper spray pellets, resulting in several injuries, including one person who was trampled by a charging police horse. ▼

## Democratic convention opens in L.A.

by Bob Roehr

Openly gay delegates and alternates, 212 strong, poured into Los Angeles for the Democratic National Convention, August 14-17. Many had come from a meeting of the Stonewall Democrats in Palm Springs.

The Republicans had an openly gay congressman, Jim Kolbe, address their convention without using the "g" or the "l" words. The Democrats had a senator, Barbara Mikulski, address their convention on Monday night without using those words either. Mikulski has long been rumored to be a lesbian, but she has never commented on those rumors.

The video of the president and his address to the convention was vintage Clinton at his charismatic best. It showcased his natural personal strength as an extremely gifted public speaker. And it reminded people that Al Gore is no Clinton when it comes to communications.

Clinton made a pitch for hate crimes legislation and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, just as he has in the State of the Union address. They were code words that gays and lesbians could clutch at without the president actually having to mention the people those laws would protect.

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez won the hearts and checkbooks of the gay community by running against and defeating the raging homophobe Repre-

sentative Robert Dornan (R-California) in 1996, and again in 1998. And once in Congress, she delivered on her promise of support of the community.

The Gore campaign had scheduled a prime speaking spot for her at the convention. But on August 10, she was stricken from the program when she refused to move a fundraising event for her political action committee, Hispanic Unity USA, from the Playboy Mansion. Sanchez eventually moved the event to a new location. Her speaking slot was restored, but on Monday, she de-

clined to accept it.

The site was "neither appropriate nor reflective of our party's values," said party chairman and Gore loyalist Joe Andrew in a fit of neo-piousness.

It is ironic that former President Jimmy Carter, honored at the convention on Monday night, had no problem confessing in the pages of *Playboy* that he had lusted in his heart. Meanwhile, Federal Election Commission records show that Gore has accepted at least \$8,500 from Hugh Hefner and Playboy CEO Christie Hefner. ▼

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# Survive AIDS adopts HIV consensus

by Jeff Getty, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

Following the recent Department of Public Health disclosure that new HIV infection rates were on the rise in men having sex with men in San Francisco, Survive AIDS met last Tuesday, August 8 and invited DPH investigator, Dr. Willi McFarland, to present data to our general body membership. In attendance was a full house of people living with AIDS and seasoned AIDS activists; people who are used to reading medical journal reports and hearing scientific data presented.

Though the group was very critical of DPH's numbers and history of credibility, all agreed on the following consensus. We hope that DPH and others planning HIV prevention in our community will consider this statement that was unanimously adopted:

1. We have heard the DPH presentation on new HIV infection and have grilled Dr. Willi McFarland at

length. We believe that the trend or rise in new infections is accurate.

2. We see unsafe sex increasing in our midst.

3. Survive AIDS feels very strongly that there needs to be a change in direction for targeted prevention efforts;

Any intervention program aimed at HIV-positive or HIV-negative men who have sex with men must include members of those groups in planning and directing such efforts;

Each group must receive its own message – the HIV-positive message does not work for those who are HIV-negative.

Gay men's health needs to be integrated with aspects other than HIV serostatus. "Always use condoms" is an outdated and overly simplistic prevention message.

4. Community-based organizations may help represent our community but are not the community per se.

5. The HIV Prevention Planning Council is underutilized. The council needs to be promoted.

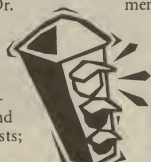
6. Living with HIV and AIDS is

not glamorous, it's more about toxicities and diarrhea. HIV-negative people are getting the wrong message from the pharmaceutical industry. We call for a campaign not unlike the anti-tobacco campaign to lampoon and counter glamorous AIDS drugs ads.

7. Cuts in city healthcare dollars now by DPH are causing a crisis that will have to be fixed by later administrations. Stop funding healthcare in a static mode. DPH credibility is low with our group because of previous manipulation of healthcare allocations.

8. The HIV denialists' message is part of the problem, they reinforce denial and unsafe sex patterns which the city needs to address head-on. The denialists' message that lifestyle – not HIV – is the cause of AIDS is homophobic and harmful. ▼

**PWAs find their voice. Survive AIDS meets every second and fourth Tuesday at 7:45 p.m., 592 Castro Street, San Francisco, above Buffalo Foods at 19th and Castro Street. PWAs and their supporters are invited to attend and participate.**



**Survive AIDS**

## Middle ground

◀ page 1

that has witnessed a surge in unprotected sex and lived through a DPH with outdated prevention messages and mysterious statistical "leaks" to the media. The true dilemma facing the city's at-risk populations is how to reconcile scientific facts that come from a source known for secrecy. Like the old adage "Don't bite off your nose to spite your face," to ignore what is a definitive rise in infections simply out of anger towards DPH hurts nobody but ourselves. That is not to say, however, that we should put our futures in DPH's hands.

"To be satisfied with the information given to us by DPH would reflect a complacency on my part. I do believe there's a surge, but they never answered where the 900 number came from or where the resources are and how they will be applied," Ammiano told the *Bay Area Reporter* about last week's hearing. "They can't expect people to accept everything blindly or else we get what we have now: a large number of people who won't even listen to the facts."

Indeed the hearing did not result in a definitive number of new infections. Yet science has never been able to do so. "Usually the new infection rate is somewhere between the highest and lowest estimate projected by our studies," Dr. Mitch Katz, director of DPH, told the crowd.

The original 900 number leaked to the *San Francisco Chronicle* in late June and picked up by news outlets around the country was the highest possible estimate, a number derived from numerous studies that showed an increase of both the population and risky behavior of men who have sex with men (MSM).

According to Katz, the studies used as "HIV indicators" have shown the following: an increase among rectal gonorrhea among MSM, an increase of sexually transmitted diseases among MSM, an increasing population of

MSM with HIV/AIDS (which is good news for survival rates, but which adds to the overall risk category), a decrease in condom use among MSM, an increase in multiple partners among MSM, and an increase of unprotected sex among serodiscordant (one negative, one positive) male couples.

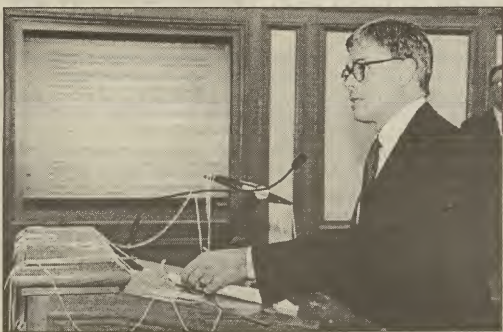
These studies are analyzed by experts – whom Katz assured were as diverse as the city's population itself – and rough numbers are derived from the raw data. The experts' conclusion, according to Dr. Tom Coates of the University of California, San Francisco, is that somewhere between 1.6 percent and 4.5 percent of the population will seroconvert.

That the science is not an exact science caused some at the hearing to turn a deaf ear, but the fact that increased risk activity is on the rise should be enough cause for alarm, according to Katz.

"Now is not the time to say, 'Let's wait and see what happens,'" said Katz.

DPH's prevention messages are outdated, admitted Katz, who suggested a new condom code for HIV-positive tops and HIV-negative bottoms instead of the old standby, "a condom every time."

"Everything else the same, if a condom is used just in these instances, we could cut the HIV infection rate by 95 percent," said Katz.



UCSF's Dr. Tom Coates at last week's hearing on HIV infection rates.

Whether this new prevention code will work for sexually active gay men is up for debate (see story, page 13). But other factors must also be addressed when facing prevention, according to Coates.

"Not a nickel of our funding goes into drug recovery, when we know that drug use increases risky behavior," said Coates. "Not a nickel goes into mental health, when we know that self esteem plays a part in the choice to protect one's self."

Yet where the money will come from to address these needs remained unanswered. Some concrete ideas came from the hearing, such as Supervisor Mark Leno's plan to attack advertisements that glamorize HIV infection.

"Today we are bombarded with treatment ads that show healthy, muscle-bound men climbing mountain tops ... the subliminal message is, 'Become positive, and this could be you,'" said Leno.

For Ammiano, the hearing provided a chance for the gay community to air its concerns about DPH statements, particularly where the mainstream media was involved.

"We're all victimized, no matter what side you're on," Ammiano told the B.A.R. "There is still the below-the-radar homophobia that we see in headlines and stories that imply that because we're gay we deserve it." ▼



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Anal cancer – painful and preventable

by Bob Roehr

**Z**ap, zap, zap. With each flash of the laser a tiny puff of smoke appeared and another section of pink flesh turned a charred black. The audience of physicians visibly flinched at each pulse, adding its own soundtrack of discomfort to the silent video. They were watching the destruction of cancerous lesions inside a gay man's rectum.

"I think you can understand why patients complain about the pain," Dr. Joel Palefsky, told members of the Fourth International Conference on AIDS Malignancies, held on the National Institutes of Health campus. The University of California at San Francisco researcher is a leader in the field of anal cancer, particularly among gay men.

Palefsky's primary message was not about pain, but about how to avoid that pain. He said that anal cancer, like cervical cancer in women, "is potentially completely preventable" through a program of regular screening and appropriate action to remove precancerous tissue.

## What's your risk?

The incidence of anal cancer in the U.S. is only 0.9/100,000. But among men who have sex with men that number soared to 35/100,000 in data gathered prior to the advent of HIV. And the rate doubles again for those who are HIV-positive, which is "roughly 10 times higher than the current rate of cervical cancer," said Palefsky. Anal cancer was a primary factor in the deaths of AIDS activists Kiyoshi Kuromiya and Stephen Gendin earlier this year.

Human papilloma virus (HPV) is the culprit. It is a family of viruses with more than 50 variations that cause everything from common warts to cancers. The same subtypes cause cervical and anal cancers. A condom offers only limited protection because the genital forms of HPV require only skin to skin contact, not penetration or ejaculation.

Most researchers believe that HPV infection is acquired soon after becoming sexually active and is initially suppressed by the immune system. As control of the virus wanes, low-grade lesions develop and progress to high grade ones. "We suspect it takes years" to progress from low to high-grade lesions, Palefsky said.

Pap smears have become a routine part of screening for vaginal and cervical cancer in women. As a result, the incidence of that cancer in the U.S. has dropped from 40-50 per 100,000 women to 8-10 per 100,000. Palefsky is urging clinicians and patients to adopt that model to screen for anal cancer in those who are at high risk. That means gay men and members of both sexes who are HIV-positive.

HAART therapy for HIV and a reconstituted immune system reduces the likelihood of a PWA developing Kaposi's sarcoma. But initial data from an ongoing study of 800 gay men with HIV at UCSF "strongly suggests" that they do not have a significant effect on the course of development of anal cancer.

"The one little glimmer of hope" is that patients with the

highest CD4+ counts when they begin HAART are the least likely to progress, said Palefsky. "This data suggests that this [anal cancer] is going to become more of a clinical problem, not less."

## Taking the test

Testing for the presence of HPV in the anal canal is not an effective screening procedure. A sample of 600 gay men found that virtually all of them had been exposed to the virus, though only a small percent would develop lesions.

Palefsky lamented the fact that "basically nobody" is doing routine anal cytology screening, biopsies, and treatment. He told the physicians it is "one of the world's easiest screenings" you can do. "The key is that the swabs have to be dacron, not cotton, because dacron is much better at giving up the cells in the liquid solution for the slides.

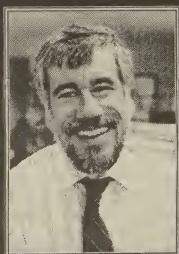
Palefsky said it is essential to use vinegar "to allow for the more subtle lesions to show up." He uses a stick wrapped in gauze and soaked in 3 percent vinegar solu-

tion. He inserts it through the anoscope, then withdraws the tube to let the gauze have contact with anal mucosa for about a minute, before withdrawing the swab and reinserting the anoscope.

The same criteria used to evaluate cervical lesions are used to evaluate anal lesions. He urged a detailed examination because "micro-invasive cancers" often are found at the base of warts.

Palefsky said that anal screening is a cost-effective medical procedure for gay men and people who are HIV-positive. Currently, most lesions are not detected until they are advanced beyond the ability to treat in the office. They require the services of a colorectal surgeon using either cold scalpel incision or the zap, zap, zapping of laser ablation. The patient should expect to be laid up for two to three weeks after the procedure.

But early detection allows for easier, less painful, and more complete measures that can be performed in a doctor's office. It also catches the cancer before it can spread. ▼



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# Deep blue sea

by Jim Provenzano

In TV Land's Olympics, careers in wet suits got promoted.

In Burlingame, Swim2000, also last weekend, tastefully offered more swimming than product promotion.

Having arrived early for Tsunami's event, the town beckoned. "Shop. Shop. Shop."

"Why?" I asked as a vision of Megan Mullally appeared in a reflection on the window of Talbots.

"Because you're wearing the wrong sunglasses, sweetie."

I shopped.

Passing on a tasty \$4 bagel at one of the many charming cafes along Burlingame Avenue, where toasting and cashier skills eluded my salesperson, I soon found a market with edible scones and things amid dozens of little tartlettes and other pastry whimsies.

For nine in the morning, the place was packed. The early shopping for the right bonbon betrayed an ulterior motive. This is a wealthy town, mostly inhabited by airlines execs and their servants. With its proximity to El Camino Real, one can just imagine the saucy Williams-esque affairs of lawn workers and indolent pilots' wives.

At stately Burlingame High School, swimming events were free, and gloriously outdoors. Break out the SPF 400 and hope it'll be the regular spot for this second annual meet, greet of swimmers from Atlanta, Philadelphia, Montreal, Houston, Los Angeles,

and parts Bay Area.

But back to product placement, and the wet suit controversy. With nary a *Waterworld* costume in sight, in a pool full of lesbians, gay and straight swimmers, opinions about aqua couture varied.

"They suck," said one gay man who asked not to be named.

Several men and women commented on the rumored 4/100ths of a second the suits are said to shear.

"I just want other colors," said another.

Specifically the rainbow colors, which were in abundance at the Tsunami event, if not on TV. Meet directors Tod Hill and Brian Fitzgibbons met with Federation of Gay Games co-President Sue Emerson, who was in town with her partner, Ilsa. They're meeting and greeting as many GLBT folk as they can during their stay.

Among the local couples present were Chris Edmonds-Waters of the University of San Francisco's club. He snagged a 56.3 in the mixed 100 yard butterfly. Chris's hubby and kid were also at the meet. He talked about the pleasure of enjoying sports into mid-life, and mid-family. "As your body ages, for a lot of people, sports becomes an outlet, an expression of who we are."

Water polo also made another splash, when two scrimmage teams formed of visitors and locals thrashed center-pool once

lane events finished.

For Andrew MacBride, his day was about beating a high school record, and not losing his contacts. He patiently waited while asked questions, only to politely dash off to adjust his eye wear. MacBride raced in three events, managed to lose no contacts, and turn in faster results than his days at El Camino High in Sacramento.

Coach Lisa Congdon, one of four with Tsunami, mentioned that the group swims specialized for all levels of experience may be what's led to the wave of new memberships with Tsunami, where you can sport whatever gear you want, so long as it is a swim suit.

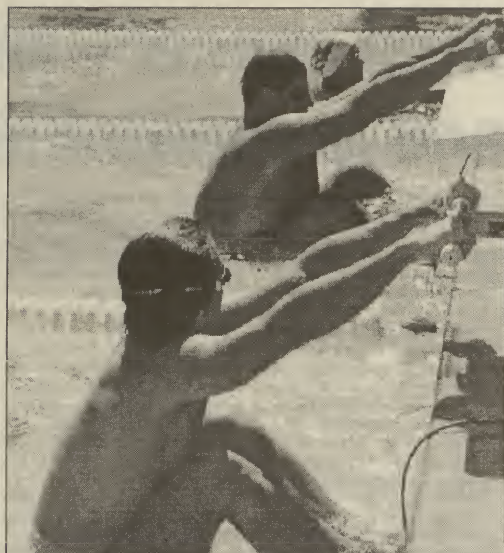


## Palms for Mrs. Howell

Among the raffle winners was senior Jae Howell, whose 55 years swimming have added up to a lot of medals. "I give them away to my grandkids when they're good," said the champion (many times over) in several events.

Over 35,000 people have been taught through her schools, one of her students said. With decades of experience, you'd think she'd relax, but she still wanted to check her scores.

Mrs. Howell, who aced five events, will be in Baltimore this weekend for another Masters event. Hopefully there's a page for stats in the Palm Pilot she won at the raffle, which raised over \$8,000 for the Breast Cancer Fund



Drew MacBride, foreground, prepares to take off in the backstroke.

and Project Open Hand.

See, wasn't that plug graceful?

For full results of the meet, and to join Tsunami, visit <http://www.sftsunami.org>

## Swimfotainment

Watching the televised version of the Swimming Trials alternated between a trio of athletes "overcoming \_\_\_\_\_ (insert illness, family death, or heart-rending problem here)," and "the (A: incredibly young, B: mature) athlete stands to become the next great champion."

Of course, they already saw the heats, so we're not watching any third-place finishers' touching life stories. I think bronze medalists have much more depth.

But are we watching sports? News? Fashion? Or just plain old infotainment? The controversy: Wet suit swimsuits and the resultant hype surrounding them.

Olympian Tom Malchow called it "a suit of armor, like becoming a superhero." The butterfly champion also had his hip tattooed with "ATLANTA 1996," and after showing it off, speculated on where his next tattoo might land. Company man, all the way.

One athlete called the Speedo wet suits "a poor man's Cat Woman." Gary Hall Jr. reminded all that "the swimmer makes the suit."

Speedo's reps were busy giggling from their gazillion-dollar in-kind promo.

Rowdy Gaines's modeling segment, followed by the alliterative "Speedo's sharkskin suit systematically shapes for an enhanced lift," reminded me of those Rock Hudson ads for Camel cigarettes or the shopgirl in *The Women*, whose corset "zips up the back and no bones."

But what's fascinating about the suits is the visualization of gender confusion, a one-piece now being the choice of both men and women.

The lanes varied; some wearing lowers, others traditional suits, and others almost all black, and easily mistaken for speedy seals. Oh, excuse me, Speedo seals.

## Wild palms

Touching profiles included an extended segment on Lenny Krazelberg, a male swimmer whose father (they live in Studio City) was shown disapproving of his only being the second fastest person on the planet in his event. What a loser!

The voiceover parroted patriarchal psalms: "While the father may dream, it's up to the son to

make it come true." Talk about your guilt trip. "I lost, so you can't." This is, of course, following Olympics Committee Teflon Guy Juan Antonio Sammeranch's recent pronouncements of a "new Olympic focus" after years of colossal financial corruption.

Among the other new global media stars, alerts went out for two fashionable contestants who no doubt already have representation.

Staciana Stitts (second place in the Olympics trials) and her fab black fingernails and pride post-hospital bald head won the Ethyl Eicheberger Congeniality award.

Ed Moses (20, from Virginia) shoved aside biblical references in favor of idol worship, claiming to become even more gold as he moves on to victory. With his smile, nothing less than a gold bikini will do. The bleach blond tattooed love child sneered for the camera, promising a career in either music or condom sales. Moses parted the sea (ouch) at an 8/100th of a second shy of a world record.

While watching future other sport coverage, nationalism-ically speaking, ask yourself this: With four out lesbian and gay people (not the previously mentioned folk, that I know of) participating in the Olympics, shouldn't we expect some gay and lesbian representation after Martina Navratilova's recent and long overdue Tennis Hall of Fame induction?

I hope you can name the four gay and lesbian participants in next month's Olympics, because with NBC subcontracting the rights out to Pax TV, (the Davey and Goliath wing of the Christian right), you can bet your \$5,000 wet suit they won't be naming them, let alone showing them.

You can bet your medal office pool cash that the queens copy editing for NBCOlympics.com won't fact-check with any of the dozens of publications that have interviewed these GL jocks, so they won't dare print that they're queer.

Not with waterproof puritan drag all the rage again.

As Mr. Gaines was paid to say, "It's Swimming's way of ushering in the millennium."

Ushers to a wedding or a funeral? ▼

**Unsolicited endorsement: To find out more about gay and lesbian athletics, visit <http://www.outsports.com>. Ten times as much gay sports than gay.conglom and planneditout.com combined!**

## HIVCare Clinical Research

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HIVCare is non-profit program of  
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## HEALTH RESOURCES

## COMMUNITY HEALTH LISTINGS

Send health resource listings to:

Community Health  
Bay Area Reporter  
395 Ninth Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

## AIDS Health Project

Concerned about HIV, dating, sex, intimacy? Free individual and group counseling & support services for HIV-negative, HIV-positive, and untested gay and bisexual men. For info, call 476-3902.

## AIDS Memorial Grove

Monthly workdays: weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowling Green Dr. and Golden Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

## Alternative Family Project

"We Are Family," on-going support group for gay men, Tues. & Thurs., 7pm. Call for no-fee info: 436-9000.

## Asians &amp; Leather

Support group for gay Asian men who identify with leather. Info: c/o Pacific Friends, PO Box 641008, or e-mail lcho415@aol.com

**Asians & Pacific Islanders with HIV**  
Weekly support group, activities, retreats, treatment info. API Wellness Center, 292-3400 x336.

## Baker Places

Provides housing for people with AIDS who have substance abuse and/or mental health issues. For info or intake call 284-1740.

## Breast Cancer Action

Carries the voices of people affected by breast cancer to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic. For info, call 243-9301.

## Center for Special Problems

Groups for people with HIV: drop-in for women, women's therapy group, co-ed drop-in and psycho educational group. 1700 Jackson. Call for info: 292-1500.

**Coming out support group for women**  
Meets Weds., 7:30-9pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market St. Men of all ages welcome. Facilitated by Kirk Hinman, Ph.D. Info: 626-7000.

**Coming out support group for men**  
Meets Weds., 5:30-7pm at New Leaf, 1853 Market St. Men of all ages welcome. Facilitated by Kirk Hinman, Ph.D. Info: 626-7000.

## Community United Against Violence

Provides services for LGBT victims of domestic violence and hate crimes. Also needs volunteer counselors on 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500. For emergency 24-hour crisis line, call 333-HELP.

## Connections

Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention and by gay men of color. Free. Call 566-8114.

## Continuum HIV Day Services

An adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Medical services, counseling, therapy, meals, activities. 241-5500.

## Dimensions

Comprehensive health, mental health, and substance abuse services for LGBTQ youth ages 12-25 in a safe, supportive environment. Sliding scale based on income. No one is turned away. Every Thursday from 5 to 8pm at 3850 17th Street, at Pond, in the Castro. Drop-in or by appt. Call 487-7589.

**Dolores Street Comm. Services**  
Connects volunteers to help homeless in shelters. Contact David Rodriguez, 282-6209.

## Drug Detox Program

Outpatient, medical drug detox, HIV acute care, counseling and education, free. Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, 529 Clayton. Call Hector, 565-1909.

## East Bay HIV/AIDS 12 Step Support Group

Ongoing. Open to all with HIV who have experience with any 12 step program. Mon. eves., 6-15pm. Info: Paul (510) 465-4311.

## Eden I &amp; R

Information & referral for AIDS/affordable housing, HIV service providers in Alameda Co. (510) 537-2600.

## Ellipse-Penisula AIDS Services

Support groups, emotional & practical buddy program, food program and case management for PWAs in San Mateo Co. (650) 572-9702.

## FABRIC

A support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/x504.

## Gay Men's STD/VD Clinic

Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun. 5-7pm. HIV antibody anonymous testing for women 12 or older, every Sun., 5-7pm. 2339 Durant Ave. at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-voice TDD 548-8238 for disabled).

## Hepatitis B Testing

And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men. Free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

## Hepatitis C Helpline

Peer support for persons afflicted with hep C. Call 834-4100.

## HIV Employment Rights Project

Legal advice and counseling for people with HIV about their rights in the workplace. Call 593-0035 in the Bay Area and (888) 864-0628 toll-free in California.

## HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Program

Behavior change support group for gay & bi men, focus on speed injection & unsafe sex behaviors. Free. Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, 1696 Haight. Call Bill or Bonnie, 565-1927.

## HIV/AIDS Services at New Leaf

Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV- men, men with AIDS, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 626-7000 x199. 1853 Market St.

## HIVCare

Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments. Free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

## HIV Drop-In Groups

Co-ed for people with HIV, Wed., 8pm. Women with HIV, Tues., 10am. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

## HIV Group

Weekly group for men with HIV/AIDS. Sixteen Wed. afternoons from 1-2:30pm. Free to SF residents. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

## HIV Testing

Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

## Iris Center

Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

## Instituto Laboral de la Raza

Helps low income and unemployed workers with labor issues, union organizing, family support. 431-7522.

## Last Drag Smoking Cessation

Free quit smoking class for LGBT & HIV-positive smokers. Quit smoking in a confidential and supportive group setting. Classes led by a highly skilled and experienced clinical leader certified by the American Lung Association. Voice mail: (415) 565-7672, ext. 351 or www.lastdrag.org.

## Lesbian Social Group

For lesbians and bisexual women in Tri-Cities/So. Alameda Co. Thurs., 7pm at The Edge, 39160 State, Fremont. (510) 790-2887.

## Lesbian Support Groups

On mental health issues: peer counseling, support and referrals for SF residents. Call Connie, 552-0788.

## Lesbians with Cancer

12 week psycho-social support group at the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, 1748 Market. Classes are offered on a sliding scale basis. Call 565-7672 x370 to register.

## Linea de Ambiente

Information, referral and emotional support for gay, lesbian and bi Latinos regarding immigration, HIV, social services, a project of Gente Latina de Ambiente (GELAAM). 243-9534.

## Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center

Quality, affordable, non-judgmental medical care to women by women, special outreach to lesbian and bisexual women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

## LYRIC's After School

Drop-in for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, 18 and under. Daily, 3-6pm, M-F. 123 Collingwood. 703-6150.

## Maitri Residential Care

For people disabled by HIV requiring 24-hour medical care. For info or to volunteer, call 558-3000.

## Marin Co. STD/HIV Clinics

STD testing, treatment; HIV anonymous testing, treatment. Call 499-7804.

## Martin De Porres House of Hospitality

Needs volunteers to help in soup kitchen, breakfast and lunch. 252 Potrero. 552-0240.

## Medical Cannabis Delivery System

Serves homebound and ambulatory patients in SF and the East Bay. Fax: 255-7489. 2261 Market, #478, SF 94114. 436-9648.

## Meditation Sessions

For caregivers, people with HIV, significant others. Free. Tues., Thurs., Fri. at 10:15am. Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. 863-2507.

## Men Overcoming Sexual Assault

Operates sexual assault hotline for men, Mon.-Fri., 7-10pm. (510) 845-7273.

## Men's Circle

Despite the painful and distressing events in your past, you can move beyond these experiences and learn to reconnect with others and with living fully and freely again. Come and join other gay/bi men on this journey to freedom. Full Circle Community Counseling. Low fees/free initial intake. 255-0100.

## Mental Health - Team II Clinic

Provides psychotherapy, case management, medications. Specializes in services to the gay and lesbian community. MediCal, Medicare, third party insurance accepted. Sliding scale. Part of SF Dept. of Public Health. 298 Monterey Blvd., near Glen Park BART station. Call Stan at 337-4795 for information.

## Molested Boys:

"Wounded Men, Recovery from Sexual Abuse" free audiotape. Call 552-4270.

## Most Holy Redeemer

AIDS support group. Seeking volunteers to provide in-home practical and emotional support to PWAs. For information and application, call 863-1581.

## Mothers Organizing Mothers

Working to change public attitudes and policies on AIDS. Meets 2nd Wed. of every month, 7pm. Call 922-4639 or 221-6651 for information.

## Movement and Voice

Group for HIV + Men, no experience necessary. Monday nights, 7pm. Call Paul, (510) 763-5900.

## National Association of People With AIDS Fax

Fax-on-demand system which provides free and up-to-date information on HIV funding, grants, insurance, benefits, legal issues and more. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call NAPWA Fax: (202) 789-2222.

## National Association for Visually Handicapped

Helps people with partial eyesight by supplying visual aids, a free service for SF residents who are HIV+ and losing eyesight. Call for appt.: 221-3201.

## Native American AIDS Project

Support, resources and advocacy for Native Americans/Alaskan Natives and their families affected by HIV. 1540 Market St., Suite 425. Info/intake: 522-2460.

## New Leaf Transgender Substance Abuse Group

Mondays 4-5:30pm. Contact Fred Barrios, 626-7000 x146.

## New Leaf

Provides substance abuse, mental health, HIV and senior services for les, gay, bi, and trans community. Info/intake: 626-7000.

## OUTline

Free HIV info and support using Windows or Macintosh graphic interface. Info: 554-0555 or info@out.org

## Pacific Center

Counseling services, social groups for queer youth & adults, sliding scale. 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. (510) 548-8283.

## Pacific Center Walnut Creek

Support groups for queer and questioning people, counseling referrals and information. (510) 939-7711.

## Paradigm

Models for enhancing life near death, serves the terminally ill. Free 10-week support group in SF. Call for info: 522-9192.

## Planetree Health Resource Center

Up-to-date medical info to assist in making informed health choices. Extensive consumer health library, current medical lit clippings and health booklets. Also support groups, health information service by mail. 2040 Webster St. 923-3680.

## The Positive Center

Free weekly workshops in acupuncture, nutrition, more for Marin Co. residents w/HIV. 535 San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo. 456-8065.

## Positive Gay Humanists

Internet organization to end discrimination & violence, meets Tues. at 7:30pm. Info: 285-0606.

## Positive Resource Center

Provides work referrals and benefits counseling to people with HIV/AIDS. To list a job opening, attend an employment opportunity orientation, or set up an appointment for benefits counseling call 777-0333.

## Project HOPE

Offers HIV prevention peer counseling to gay, bisexual and transgender men of color. Call 356-8114.

## Project Open Hand

Provides free prepared meals, groceries and nutrition counseling for people with symptomatic and disabling HIV disease. Call 1-800-551-6325 for intake information.

## Prostate Cancer Resource

Provides the latest treatment information, education, referrals, free P.S.A. screening test for low income men in the community. Call 1-888-983-7833 or e-mail: pc-res@inter.net.

## Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida

Counseling and workshops on HIV and other life issues for gay, les, bi and trans Latinos/as. 864-7278.

## PWA Long-Term Survivors

Support group for men: small, friendly, pro-active. Call Carol, 584-1708.

## Q Action

Work with other queer boys to stop HIV transmission among young gay and bi men. Info: 431-2ACT.

## Quan Yin Healing Arts Center

Acupuncture, Chinese herbal therapies, massage for those with HIV, Yoga and Chi Gong classes. Call for schedule. 1748 Market. 861-4964.

## Question HIV

Support group, share stories, every Mon., 7pm. Call for location and info. 252-1381.

## Radical Women

Business mtg, 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month. 7pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278.

## Rafiki Services Project

Enhancing quality of life for African American people living with AIDS in SF. 346-5860.

## Richard M. Cohen Residence

SF's first assisted-living residence for people disabled by AIDS, needs volunteers (call 558-0503) and household donations (call 282-6209).

## Richmond Area Multi-Services in SF

Offers low fee counseling/psychotherapy services to sexual minorities, people with HIV/AIDS. Support/therapy groups for family/loved ones of PWAs in English, Russian, Cantonese, Vietnamese. 668-5955.

## San Francisco Gay &amp; Lesbian Immigration

And Asylum Rights Task Force meets first Thurs. of every month, 7pm, 870 Market St., Rm. 1213. Offers support groups for gay immigrants and their lovers, friends, Shannon, 392-6257.

## San Mateo County AIDS Program

Provides prevention, health care, services and advocacy. Volunteer resources coordinator. (650) 573-2488. Information: (650) 573-2588.

## Senior Central

Provides info, referral and assistance to gay and lesbian seniors. Free and confidential services. 360 4th St. 777-3233.

## Sex Workers

St. James Infirmary, every Wednesday 6-9pm at City Clinic, 7th and Folsom. Free, non-judgmental health care for sex workers. Men's support group at 7pm on first Wednesday. (415) 554-8494.

**Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic**  
City Clinic provides free or low cost confidential, comprehensive STD diagnostic and treatment services for anyone 12 years of age or older. The clinic is located at 356 7th Street, between Folsom and Harrison streets and is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8am-4pm, Tuesday from 1-6pm, and Thursday from 1-4pm.

## Shanti

Provides practical assistance to people living with AIDS. Volunteer training provided. For info on services, call 674-4700; to volunteer, call 674-4722. New location is in the Project Open Hand building, 730 Polk Street, at Ellis.

## Southern Alameda HIV Services

Tri-City Health Center provides comprehensive HIV services, with offices in Fremont and Hayward. (510) 713-6670 and 727-9233, respectively. Spanish and Tagalog spoken.

## STD Check-ups

Free testing site given by City Clinic, 2nd Thurs. of each month, 8:30-10:30pm. Blow Buddies, 933 Harrison. 863-4323.

## St. Francis Senior Center

Invites seniors to weekly gatherings, Wed. 10am-2pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 621-2635.

## Stonewall Project

A harm reduction program for GBT men who have questions about or issues with speed. Individual or group counseling offered with no requirement that you be clean and sober (or even want to be). Call for daily drop-in times. 3180 18th Street @ Folsom, Suite 202, SF 94110. (415) 5032-1999; TTY (415) 502-5724; fax (415) 502-5764.

## Survive AIDS

Self-empowerment for AIDS treatment options. Gen' mts. Tues., 7:30pm; treatment issues every other Thurs., 7:30pm. 592 Castro. 252-9200.

## Tambayan

Support/social group for queer pinoy and their friends. Every Thurs., 7pm at Filipino Task Force on AIDS, 1540 Market St., Suite 325. 703-9880.

## Transgressors in Transition

Alternative Family Project's ongoing support group for transgendered and transsexual folk. Thurs., 7:30pm, 425 Divisadero, Suite 203b. 436-9000.

## Transitions

Nonprofit consulting service: guidance, referrals and resources for the dying and their caregivers. Call David Cardenas, 664-6975.

## Transcendental Meditation Center

Has scholarships for low income people with HIV. Call Paul Brown at 931-1621.

## Transgender Support Group

Multiracial rag group, every first Monday of month. 6:30pm. Call Adela Holady, Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida, 864-7278.

## UCSF AIDS Health Project

Offers: (1) ongoing groups for persons diagnosed with KS; (2) Tues. night support group for women who are caregivers or family members of PWAs; (3) support group for HIV+ African-American heterosexual men. Info: 476-3902.

## Volunteer haircutters needed

For HIV patient services at Davies Med. Cntr. Once a month, 3-hr. shift on Mon. Call Barbara at 565-6374.

## We Care Bay Area

Provides emergency financial support to individuals affected by AIDS and other serious illnesses. Requests must be made thru a Bay Area outreach or social service agency. Info: 282-1911.

## Weight Watchers Mtg.

Men: 9am Sat., 7pm Wed; Women: 6:30pm, Tues. MCC, 150 Eureka St.

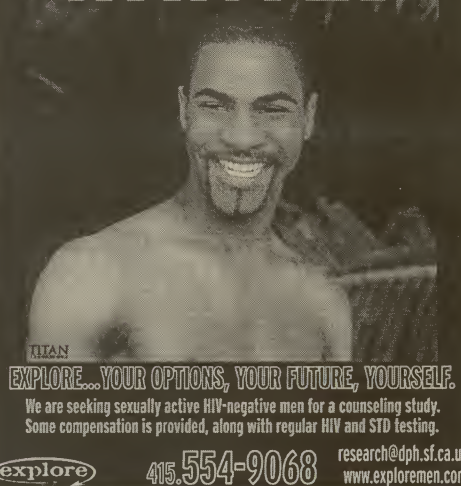
## WilCare Hospice

& Home Care offers free 20-hr. training course for volunteers. 2001 Gateway, San Jose. Call (408) 467-0777.

## Women's Cancer Resource Center

Support, resource & advocacy group for Bay Area women with cancer, their friends, families. Provides individual peer counseling & drop-in support groups, educational programs, legal workshop & more. 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 548-9272.

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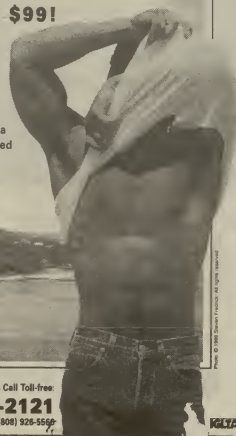
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### Historic Hacienda Lodge

1930's Hacienda Lodge is situated on a 1.1 acre river front parcel and boasts soaring beamed ceilings, massive double-sided stone fireplace, 4 sets of French doors, 4x10 milled redwood siding, an inground pool and a tri-level patio/deck w/ panoramic views of the Russian River and

Hacienda bridge. The compound consists of the Lodge, a duplex w/knotty pine and deck and a private 1 bedroom/1 bath home. Needs some restoration to bring it back to its original charm! A one of a kind opportunity offered at \$715,000.



### Casa Encantada Del Rio

This Russian River Chalet offers open beamed ceilings, a raised hearth fireplace, double sliders and a wall of glass that affords a river view and towering redwoods. The .21 acre lot offers a double-tiered deck and a new hot tub w/ sun and privacy. Many upgrades and a garage! Nicely priced at \$209,000.



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## LEGAL NOTICES

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 241864

The following person(s) are doing business as Marino's Towing Service, 988 Howard Street #32, San Francisco, CA. 94103. This business is conducted by a Individual signed Carlos Duane. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 7/30/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 07/03/2000. JULY 27, AUG 3, 10, 17, 2000

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 0211427-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Rob's Cleaning Service. 584 Castro Street PMB# 395, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on:2/11/97. This business was conducted by: a Individual: Robert P. Fremont. JULY 27, AUG. 3, 10, 17, 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 242472

The following person(s) are doing business as Perfect Paws Company LLC. 1776 18th St. San Francisco, CA. 94107. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed David Ross-partner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/31/2000. AUG 3, 10, 17, 24, 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 242552

The following person(s) are doing business as e-authorsoutlet.com. 43-A Juniper Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an Individual signed Robert E. Roberts. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 8/03/2000. AUG 10, 17, 24, 31, 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 242372

The following person(s) are doing business as GardenSpot. 55 Sharon Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Louis Bledak. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 7/01/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/26/2000. AUG 10, 17, 24, 31, 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 242677

The following person(s) are doing business as Mayhem Entertainment/Records, Ebone, Baller Publishing. 750 La Playa #718, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an Individual signed Eric Robles. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 8/09/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/09/2000. AUGUST 17, 24, 31, SEPT. 7, 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 242728

The following person(s) are doing business as Clarity Skincare. 2001 Van Ness Avenue #407, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an Individual signed Jill C. Ferrell. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 8/11/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/11/2000. AUGUST 17, 24, 31, SEPT. 7, 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 242656

The following person(s) are doing business as Ontheair. 1011 23rd Street #10, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Maria Cleveland. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 7/27/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 08/08/2000. AUGUST 17, 24, 31, SEPT. 7, 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 242316

The following person(s) are doing business as Cannabiss Healing Californians Healthcare and Education Center. 166 Woodland Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by co-partners signed Michael Foley and Robyn Few. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 07/24/2000. AUGUST 17, 24, 31, SEPT. 7, 2000

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 314049

In The Superior Court Of The State Of California In And For The County Of San Francisco. In the matter of the Application of Brett Mathew Wheeler. For Change of Name. The application of Brett Mathew Wheeler, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Brett Mathew Wheeler, has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Sir Ezekiel Brett Tyrus. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in person at 218 on the 2nd day of October 2000, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. AUGUST 10, 17, 24, 31, 2000

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#### Packing your summer bookbag

New offerings from Michael Craft, James Davidson, Brad Gooch, K.M. Soehnlein.

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#### Northwest passage

Seattle Opera's 'Die Walkure,' without passion.

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#### Camaraderie call

42nd Street Moon's debut 'The Good Companions.'

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 ¥ No. 33 ¥ 17 August 2000

## Truth or consequences

Reid and Hoffmann's  
*Long Night's Journey Into Day*

by Gary Morris

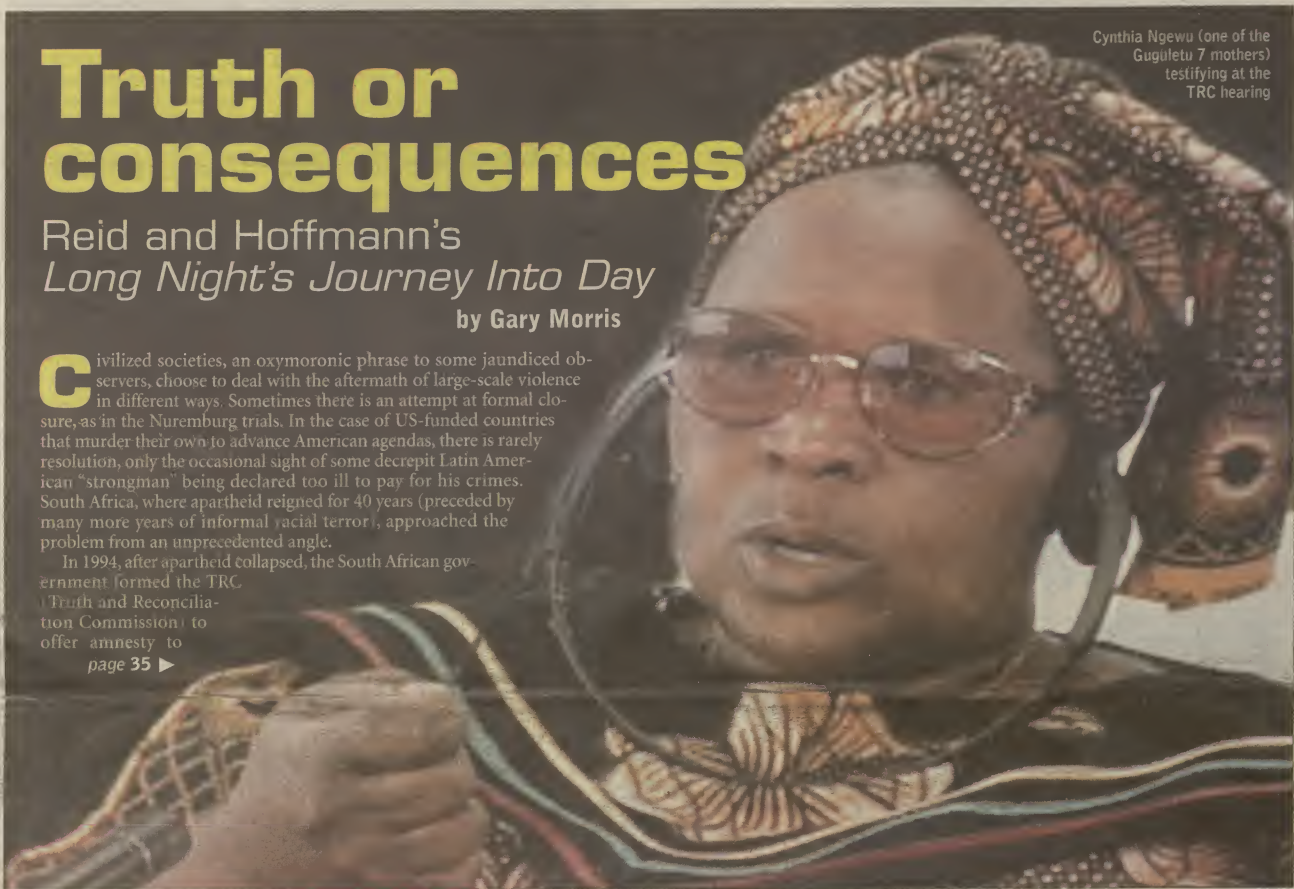
**C**ivilized societies, an oxymoronic phrase to some jaundiced observers, choose to deal with the aftermath of large-scale violence in different ways. Sometimes there is an attempt at formal closure, as in the Nuremberg trials. In the case of US-funded countries that murder their own to advance American agendas, there is rarely resolution, only the occasional sight of some decrepit Latin American "strongman" being declared too ill to pay for his crimes. South Africa, where apartheid reigned for 40 years (preceded by many more years of informal racial terror), approached the problem from an unprecedented angle.

In 1994, after apartheid collapsed, the South African government formed the TRC.

(Truth and Reconciliation Commission) to offer amnesty to

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Cynthia Ngewu (one of the  
Guguletu 7 mothers)  
testifying at the  
TRC hearing



Tris Pitts

## Eames World

(You just live in it) by Glen Helfand

**T**he enduring cultural relevance of 20th-century design mavens Charles and Ray Eames is easily, almost scientifically proved. Just try this simple experiment — search for the word "Eames" on eBay and see what turns up. Last week, this query returned a list of 1,054 items, but a mere fraction of them were the genuine article. For every authentic molded plywood leg splint or mint-condition curvy plastic "La Chaise" lounge, there are dozens of items tagged with the term "Eames-era." Their name-brand identifies anything, and I do mean anything, that's vaguely modern, modernist, or what's commonly become known as mid-century.

On that recent web search, the phrase applied to an "Old Electric Mirror Disco Ball," a "HOT [sic] Orange Pineapple Juice Pitcher," a "Space Age Mod Red Mushroom Lamp" (an object I remember my parents buying new at a discount store in the early 1970s), and a loose pastel drawing of beach umbrellas. (A listing for an "Eames LTR-Black Top" even lent the designers an unexpected connection to queer personal ad lingo.)

You might say the on-line sellers of these diverse vintage objects are simply E-market savvy — they know their way around an

auction search engine where collectibles are concerned — but their Eames awareness is revealing on a deeper level. The classic modernist forms and ideas that the lovable designer couple brought to the public are still relevant for a number of appealingly formal, social and cultural reasons, all of which are in evidence in the boisterous, highly designed traveling exhibition of their work that's currently at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, its final venue. (The show was organized by the Library of Congress and the Vitra Design Museum.)

And since the Eameses trafficked in a particularly sunny, Southern California brand of postwar modernism, LA is the perfect place to see their work. The existence of their famed home, with its Mondrian-like modular façade, in Santa Monica Canyon, and their office in nearby Venice — both of which are mentioned frequently in the show — make you feel like you're getting the info at the source.

### Open to influence

A key to the Eameses' appeal, besides their ubiquitous but always appealing molded plywood chairs, is that they worked within an aura of expansive open-mindedness. Though their work maintained an elegance, it never seems forced or constrained by clean modernist tenets. Their ambitious vision was modular, multicultural, multi-

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Herman Miller postcard promoting Eames  
chairs, 1954



David Gillman and Eames Office, courtesy Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



Seven hotties in search of a hit: *Naked Boys Singing*

### by Roberto Friedman and the Panda Ring Press

With the summer winding down and the warm weather finally here, things have definitely been heating up at Theatre Rhinoceros, with rehearsals underway for the upcoming San Francisco production of *Naked Boys Singing*. The show, which has been running off-Broadway for two years, finally arrives in SF at the end of the month. This bawdy musical revue features a cast of seven hot boys, and, you guessed it, they spend their time on stage as naked as the day they were born — after spending hours in the gym, of course.

Rhino artistic director **Doug Holsclaw** says that the auditions were supposed to be tame, without any hint of skin, just relying on talent as a barometer for the casting. As soon as those hotties gathered at Rhino, however, they began to strip, feeling more comfortable in the altogether.

Once the show was cast, the boys were whisked off for a photo shoot, where clever photographer **Kent Taylor** turned up the heat (literally) in his studio, which forced the cast to strip as soon as they arrived, and produced beads of sweat which read delightfully on the glossy bodies of the seven beauties. The boys have begun rehearsing in the buff, and

Holsclaw says he's had to hire 'round-the-clock security to prevent the masses from getting a peek before the previews begin (Aug. 31).

With appearances scheduled for the Folsom and Castro Street Fairs, as well as upcoming display windows at Rizzoli and A Different Light bookstores, the guys are agog with all the attention.

The cast features such talents as **Jared Fortunado** (*Jeff Stryker Does Hard Time*), **Peter Fogel** (*Club Inferno*), **Tom Orr** (*Dirty Little Show Tunes*), **Steve Clay** (Nob Hill Cinema talent coordinator), **Arturo Galster** (Patsy Cline), **Issac Brantner** and **James**



### Out There

**Quedado.** The show is directed by eminent director and playwright **F. Allen Sawyer** (*Hot Pants Homo*, *Gross Indulgences - The Trials of Liberace*). Opens Sept. 9; for tickets, call 861-5079.

### Voice farm

Like any other gay pressie, we are looking forward to the **National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association** confab coming to this toddlin' town in September. Big names, big bucks, out-of-town guests who know nothing about us — all the fun convention hotels bring.

But something about the conference's program gives us pause. One panel/workshop is called, "Do I sound too gay to be a TV reporter?" Let's face it [we paraphrase the program copy], the news director listening to your tape either likes your voice or just can't stand it! Here's how to change it!

To us, this dress-for-success strategy in assimilation is uncomfortably close to an embarrassing gaffe by one of our two dailies (how quaint that sounds already!) **straight TV columnist**, who opined in print during the last mayor's race that the challenger "sounds too gay" to be Mayor of San Francisco. That was surely a new low for a local journalism already known for its valleys.

Maybe instead of worrying so much about butch up, the NLGJA should sponsor a workshop on overcoming self-loathing. They'd need one large conference room.

### Canadian Club

Out There's very own spy at **Gay Pride in Vancouver**, British Columbia earlier this month waited in line for so long to get into the big party that he was too exhausted to make it to the parade the next day! The gay party was held at the Vancouver Public Library, a huge building our source describes as along the lines of the Coliseum (the one in Rome, not Oakland).

Turns out the sweaty shindig was in sort of the basement rum-pus room of the library — with books visible through windows for bibliophiles to lust after — and the smoking room was merely a chicken wire cage back outside, like a holding room for refugees. It also happened to be Spain's night in the city's international fireworks competition, and the sultry country's glamorous pyrotechnics were choreographed to the tune of **Cher's** "Believe" — an odd choice if you ask us, but oddly appropriate to the tres gay occasion.

BC's gay community is clearly a model of diversity, and includes shirtless bears in many colors, as well as all the other types you'd expect. They queued up at every bar in town, including the less-than-packed "somewhat older men's bar" **The Fountainhead** (**Ayn Rand** is rolling in her crypt), which smelled too much like brown 'n' serve rolls for our spy, who beat a hasty retreat.

### A piece of the rock

Out There keeps our ear to the ground, and let us tell you, the pavements in this town are filthy! But because we are always listening, we heard tell of the plans by a certain feature writer for another paper (we'll call him **Sub Marine**) to kick this journalism thang when his rag bites the dust (mere weeks away), hunker down and write his novel!

If the preceding sentence doesn't strike terror in readers' hearts, ours or his, consider this: If a certain very **Big Author** in SF can write about (and wring every last drop of publicity out of) his night of passion with immortal hunk **Rock Hudson** (thinly disguised as **Chip Rock** or whatever on the upcoming miniseries *Yet More Tales of the Slutty*) — our serial novelist apparently suffered from performance anxiety — then Marine can write with impunity about his big night with BA. They can do that icky thing queer men like to do, *establish a lineage*.

Well, we suppose if matinee idol **Rupert Everett** can write a novel, so can the Marine. Proof's in the pudding, but really, can't someone somewhere do something to *stop the madness*?

### Ex y z

Why are we always the last to know? Rumor has it that Lesbian Splitsville in San Francisco includes the relationships of former supervisor and Chamber of Commerce honcho **Roberta Achtenberg** and her partner, and Academy Award-winning filmmaker **Deborah Chasnoff** and her partner.

Both separations are as amicable as these things can be. And in each household, shared custody of children helps keep things that way.

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## THEATRE

# In 'Good' company

## 42nd Street Moon's US premiere

by Richard Dodds

There are some musicals that are so quaintly British that they become treasures of discovery for Americans who stumble upon them. I had this experience in the early '80s when a clerk in a London record store mentioned an unheralded musical titled *Me and My Girl*. Of course, the privacy of that discovery was to be short-lived. But those who found their way to *The Good Companions* in the summer of 1974 have been able to preserve their memories without eventually sharing them with a bandwagon of latecomers.

After an abbreviated run, blamed in part on a spate of IRA bombings, *The Good Companions* folded its modest tent and disappeared from the scene. But a cast album and a bright marquee of creative talents kept the musical's name alive, at least for dedicated musical-theater fans. Befitting its role as a champion of such musicals, 42nd Street Moon is providing the American debut of *The Good Companions*.

Seeing this musical charmingly unfold at the Eureka Theatre, it isn't hard to conjure that American-in-London craving for a slice of genuine kidney-pie theater. But while the source material for the musical is distinctly English — a novel by J.B. Priestley — only one of its adapters pledges allegiance to the throne. Lyricist Johnny Mercer, of course, helped write the Great American Songbook. Composer Andre Previn was born in Berlin, but found himself in Los Angeles. Only librettist Ronald Harwood, who would go on to write the hit play *The Dresser*, was born in the UK.

Even so, the musical is convincingly rooted in the bygone world of the small-time vaudevillians who endlessly toured the British provinces. There are also ample doses of whimsy in the world of *The Good Companions*, but they are purveyed without the high-pressure pretensions that could make them cloying.

In addition to Previn, Mercer, and Harwood, the original production's reputation is fueled by the names of its principal players. Judi Dench and John Mills headed the cast as two lost souls who find salvation as members of a woebegone musical troupe. The ingenue roles featured Marti Webb (soon to be an Andrew Lloyd Webber favorite) and Christopher Gable (Twiggy's partner in *The Boyfriend*).

### Genial therapy

One of the things that distin-



Alison Ayler shows Marsha Lanzo the horizon in *The Good Companions*.

guishes director Greg MacKellan's genially polished production is the genuine sense of camaraderie — which just happens to be the title of the opening song — that pervades the players. It's a warmth that pulls the audience into what is generally a low-stake story.

A number of 42nd Street regulars help provide this conviviality, but a talented Bay Area newcomer brings welcome freshness to the role that Judy Dench created. Alison Ayler, who landed here after 13 years as a cruise-ship entertainer, plays Elizabeth Trant, a single woman with a modest legacy that she invests in the Dinky-Doos, as the vagabond players unfortunately call themselves. Ayler brings grace, a natural charm, and a solid voice to this role of a lost woman just finding her self.

It is 42nd Street Moon veteran Don Cima who sweetly plays the John Mills role as a henpecked husband driven from his house and into the arms of the Dinky-Doos. A newly goateed Bill Fahrner, often seen in character roles at 42nd Street Moon, shows leading-man strengths as a budding songwriter.

Marsha Lanzo, as the troupe's rising star, is a savvy entertainer

who projects the eager-to-please desperation of a lifelong performer. Stephen Pawley provides his familiar saucer-eyed antics as a member of the Dinky-Doos, while fresh-faced Mark Farrell brings some new energies as another Dinky-Doer. Sean Sharp is delightful as a banjo player who carries himself like theatrical royalty, and Jackson Davis plays multiple and disparate characters with a steady droll skill.

Choreographer Jayne Zaban manages a lively series of steps that the company can handle with dexterity. Onstage pianist and musical director Dave Dobrusky sports a hang-dog expression that finds its place in a cameo role as a cornered juvenile delinquent.

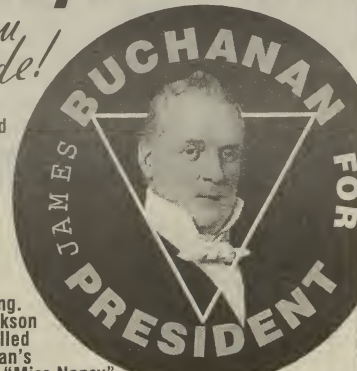
*The Good Companions* provides good companionship during its stroll down a mostly imagined memory lane. Just think of that square outside the theater as Leicester rather Jackson, and you may find yourself ordering trifle at the Starbucks down the street. ▼

**The Good Companions will run through Aug. 27 at the Eureka Theatre. Tickets are \$22 and \$25. Call 788-1125.**

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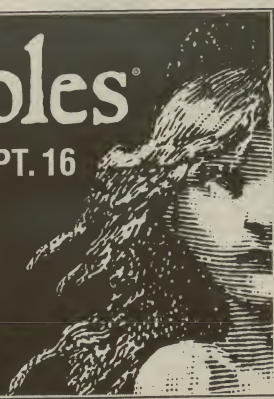
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# 'Die Walküre' in Seattle: Supersize it!

by Stephanie von Buchau

The best performance of Richard Wagner's *Die Walküre* I ever heard, even though the sets and costumes were hideous and the conducting pedestrian, was at the Metropolitan Opera in 1965. The Siegmund (Jon Vickers) and Sieglinde (Leonie Rysanek) were over-upholstered and middle-aged, and they never even touched in the first act. I had to wring my underwear out afterwards.

I thought about that performance — in which passion and commitment simply erased visual considerations, as they should in opera — during Seattle Opera's new *Walküre* last week. (The first two *Ring* of the *Nibelung* operas — *Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre* — were premiered in a new production that bows as a full Wagnerian cycle next summer.) These days, impresarios are trapped between casting for voice or casting for looks; everybody seems to have forgotten to cast for *character*, i.e. believable stage charisma, which is what Rysanek and Vickers — and the Brünnhilde in that Met *Walküre*, Birgit Nilsson — had in spades.

Only two of Seattle Opera's cast managed to display that kind of incandescence, and unfortunately, neither was the singer for whom this *Ring* is being mounted, Jane Eaglen. The British soprano, who now makes her home in Seattle, is considered by international jury to be the best Wagnerian soprano since Nilsson, an opinion I do not share. I've heard her Brünnhilde four times, first at Opera Pacific in 1994 and last in San Francisco Opera's 1999 *Ring*, and I've come to the conclusion that if there is a message there, I'm not getting it.

Eaglen's soprano is medium-sized and penetrating, though the top tends to thin out. She has stamina, and her reading of the text is generally musical. So far, so good. Yet Eaglen is also a large, placid woman with an inexpressive face and awkward body language. She has virtually no stage presence and doesn't even try to act most of the time, though an occasional impatient gesture or facial tic lets you know that she understands what she is singing.

## Clone casting?

This makes Seattle Opera director Speight Jenkins' pre-production interviews, in which he assured us that Eaglen would move around and act since the *Ring* cycle was being mounted specifically for her, all the more mystifying. Not only was her Brünnhilde not one bit different from other performances of hers I had seen, but these first two installments of the *Ring*, for want of a better term, were mostly cast with "Eaglen-clones," overweight, graceless and so unconvincing that, by the time Eaglen showed up in Act II of *Walküre*, she was no longer a singular presence, but just one more lumpy, uncharismatic opera singer playing in the bourgeois soap opera that Seattle has made of Wagner's mythical masterpiece.

Eaglen's physical inadequacies were not erased by any magic from stage director Stephen Wadsworth, as his fans had hoped, but more or



Soprano Jane Eaglen in Seattle Opera's *Die Walküre*.

less buried in the stultifying ordinariness of the rest of the cast. If this was intentional, it was an amazing feat of prestidigitization; if not, Wagner was diminished for no good reason. In Thomas Lynch's heavy, photorealistic sets (mostly trees, with a rocky promontory for *Walküre*'s last act, all gorgeously lit by Peter Kaczorowski) and wearing Martin Pakledinaz's hippie camouflage (topped by greasy, braided hairdos borrowed from the nearest Deadhead encampment), the casts put on a grimly low-key show, running the gamut of emotions from A to B.

Even conductor Armin Jordan, while refreshingly ensuring rhythmic accuracy in orchestra and singers, did not provide much majesty, mystery or passion in his reading. Was the low energy level of both nights attributable to Jordan, Wadsworth, or everybody "dumbing down" so as not to dim the putative star's already wan wattage? (I must report that I was in the minority; the audience at both performances shouted, screeched and gave standing Os to everybody but the theater cat; of course, they also applauded all the way through *Das Rheingold*, which suggests that, despite their enthusiasm, they didn't know Brünnhilde from Boeing.)

Welshman Phillip Joll, even at six-foot-four and close to 300 pounds, was nearly invisible; he has zero personality and a wobble besides, though he was still superior to Seattle's last two Wotans. Siegmund and Sieglinde (Mark Baker and Margaret Jane Wray) struck a blow for the "Even Supersized People Deserve Love" club, but unlike Rysanek and Vickers, they did not wet your underwear, even when rolling around in the usual unseemly manner. And she does not have the top voice for "O hehrstes Wunder," Sieglinde's most ecstatic moment.

## Wide load

Thomas Harper (Mime) can

sing, but he was the widest dwarf I've ever seen. (Someone asked me if he was wearing a "fat suit." I don't have any idea, but in this bizarre production, I wouldn't be surprised.) Yet there were two singers who proved my contention that being large doesn't preclude being exciting. Stephen Milling (Fasolt, Hunding) was the most tender Fasolt I've ever heard. He's the rough giant who yearns for Freia (Marie Plette) to warm his hearth, and he was quite heartbroken when his evil brother Fafner (Harry Peeters) opted for gold instead.

Even better was Stephanie Blythe's Fricka. Yes, she's large, but pretty, animated and graceful. She also has a sensational voice, rich and sympathetic. At both ends of the two operas, the Rheintöchter (in flying harnesses; very amusing, though they whooped too much) and the Valkyries (several promising lesbian relationships here) sang well, were shapely and moved with fluid ease. Froh (Thomas Studebaker) and Donner (James Courtney) were non-entities; Loge (Peter Kazaras) and Alberich (Richard Paul Fink) were interesting without erasing previous memories. Wadsworth's one staging coup involved Nancy Maultsby's Erda, who virtually crawled into Wotan's lap to deliver her warning; there was no doubt what was going to happen after *Das Rheingold*.

Yet all I could think of at the end of the relentlessly dreary *Walküre* — even Seattle's patented burst of propane seemed feeble — was what are they going to do next summer in the final scene of *Siegfried*, when the music finally rises out of the depths and those radiant strings pour Wagner's glorious light on the recumbent Brünnhilde (stored in this production like a piece of carry-on luggage) and a tenor we have yet to meet? The mind boggles; the senses reel. ▼



## DESIGN



Charles and Ray Eames posing for a Christmas card, 1944.

## Eames World

◀ Arts cover

disciplinary and populist at heart. They believed in making affordable, well-designed objects — a philosophy that currently drives mega-retailers Ikea and Target — and looked to various cultures for inspiration (as theirs is a concentration on form and function, regardless of origin). They also aimed to communicate complex ideas to a broad public, and worked with whatever mediums would serve those ends best.

The latter idea means they designed furniture, interiors, exhibitions, films, photography, audiovisual presentations, fabrics, graphics and various objects. You could also add that they were astute public relations experts, as they managed to achieve quite a degree of fame, even representing the US in international Expos in such dicey spots as Cold War-era Moscow — and always managed to seem a cute, amiable married American couple. There's Ray smiling in her bell-shaped dress, and kindly Charles in his comfy gray suit. (There is not, however, the slightest reference to that nasty rumor that Ray did most of the work while Charles took most of the credit.)

The exhibition, designed by the noted firm Hodgetts+Fung Design Associates, itself covers all that ground, being a compact, carnival-like affair. It's filled with objects, images, artifacts and biographical ephemera. The show's design is as free-ranging as its subject, including aspects of furniture showroom, historic home (there's a recreation of their office here, one of the few elements that hasn't aged so well), screening room, industrial arts display, science museum and archive. It's a fun immersion in the Eames world view — complete with energizing sounds emanating from films, videotapes and a giant washing machine-like contraption that tumbles a molded plywood chair to demonstrate its durability.

You can poke through Plexiglass-covered drawers to see the kinds of quirky, World Beat *objet* the Eames (well, Ray was a confirmed pack rat) collected — folk dolls, graphics supplies, dreidels, paper clips, Band Aids, you name it. The range of items in those drawers, which show few preju-

dices, does much to humanize the legendary designers, as you're certain to have some of that stuff yourself.

## Pleasure principle

The idea of graciousness pervades. It's not surprising, then, to learn that one of Charles' mottoes was, "We have to take pleasure seriously." The sentiment has a universal appeal (though it does seem to have particular significance in the gay community, where lifestyle really reigns supreme), and pleasure, as an adjunct of beauty, has come to be a hot topic in art and design circles these days. Still, there's something a bit disconcerting about reading an earnest letter from Charles to a major American car maker complaining that they can't find the simple, elegant vehicle they're looking for — it's one of the few moments of design diva-dom that you'll encounter here.

What's surprising about the

show is how the furniture is the least interesting part. It's so common to see Eames pieces, or those influenced by Eames, in hipster homes, sleek furniture showrooms or *Wallpaper* magazine that the museum context is redundant.

What we don't often see are their films, which are well showcased here. These particularly relay how Charles and Ray tapped into film aesthetics and structures. Their 1952 "Blacktop: A Story of the Washing of a School Play Yard," a black-and-white abstraction of soapy water on asphalt, is projected on the floor at the start of the show, revealing an arty avant garde streak. A good portion of the show is devoted to their much more complex visualization of scientific and mathematical principles called "Powers of Ten." That film, which was completed in 1977 with the subtitle "A Film Dealing with the Relative Size of Things in the Universe

and the Effect of Adding Another Zero," is documented with production materials and storyboards which reveal the complex systematic method in which they used a visual tool to explain a complicated concept.

It also makes it clear that the Eameses worked in multimedia long before the term, or the Internet, existed. I recently spoke to a successful computer animator who admits (though not to his bosses) that all he does all day is translate Eames ideas to digital media. And when he gets paid, he often looks for a good deal on one of their chairs on eBay. They're everywhere. ▼

**The Work of Charles and Ray Eames: A Legacy of Invention** is on view at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art through September 10. Info: (323) 857-6000.



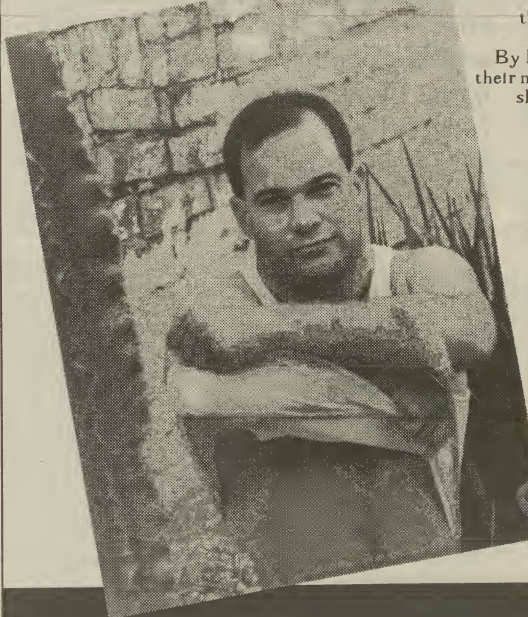
Herman Miller publicity shot for the Eames Storage Unit, 1951.

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# Polishing the candelabra

Liberace biographer Darden Asbury Pyron puts icon in cultural context

by Bradley David

Nobody in their right mind would ever claim that Liberace was a gay role model. After all, the famous entertainer spent most of his life relentlessly denying his extremely obvious homosexuality and, as he lay dying in 1987, he steadfastly refused to publicly acknowledge that he had AIDS. As writer Darden Asbury Pyron makes clear in his new biography, however, Liberace may not have been a role model, but he definitely was, and remains still, a major gay icon.

"I didn't intend the book chiefly for a gay audience, but I would like for gay men to read it," says Pyron, who is himself openly gay. "I wrote it chiefly for a straight audience that I assumed still doesn't know anything about what it's like to be gay. I think there's a real cultural divide. When

I've talked to straight friends, I've heard things like, 'I'm liberal and I'm from New York, but what do gay guys do?' So even among liberals, there's this kind of blankness there about what really goes on, both sexually as well as in terms of gay culture."

A number of books and two TV movies have come out since Liberace's death 13 years ago, and yet another movie script is reportedly floating around Hollywood, with talk of Johnny Depp or Tom Cruise playing the lead. Pyron's biography, however, is the first scholarly look at the performer.

"I think I'm the first guy to look at Liberace really seriously," says Pyron, 58. A history professor at Florida International University in Miami, Pyron's previous books include *Southern Daughter: The Life of Margaret Mitchell*, which is considered the definitive biography of the *Gone With the Wind* author.

In the almost 500 pages of *Liberace: An American Boy* (University of Chicago Press, \$27.50), Pyron makes a compelling case that behind his flashy facade, Liberace was actually a classic rags-to-riches American success story. Born Wladziu Valentino Liberace on May 16, 1919 in West Allis, Wisconsin, he grew up the son of poor Polish-Italian immigrants. Intensely ambitious, he possessed a core of conservative Midwestern values and always saw himself first as "the good son" — fiercely devoted to his beloved mother Frances, who died in 1981 at the age of 87.

## Theatre of the absurd

With his hit TV variety show in the '50s (it got higher ratings than *I Love Lucy*) and his still-unbroken concert attendance records, Liberace was one of the most popular entertainers of the 20th century. Aggressively and often indiscreetly homosexual in his private life, he reached superstardom long before the gay liberation movement and thus chose to live a huge (and absurd) lie when it came to his public image. Most notably, his unwavering public denials came in court, when he successfully sued several tabloid publications for slander.

Pyron reveals the complexities of Liberace's public persona, however, pointing out that by the mid-1970s, he was introducing the young man who chauffeured him onto the stage in various over-the-top custom-designed Rolls-Royces as "my companion." Becoming a campy caricature of himself, Liberace began making tongue-in-cheek references to his sexuality, and in one interview said, "With a name like Liberace, which stands for freedom, anything that has the letters L-I-B in it I'm for, and that includes gay lib."

Making sense of Liberace's life, says Pyron, was not easy. "My own theory about gayness is that it's natural," he says. "This is the way we're born, and by the time we're six or so, we're already who we are... Things will always



Liberace in an appearance at the Circle Star Theatre in San Carlos.

them in his act as his onstage chauffeur. The best-known of the three was Scott Thorson, who underwent plastic surgery to make himself look like Liberace, went public with a palimony suit after Liberace became fed up with his drug habit and dumped him, and later wrote a tell-all book.

Pyron says he tried in vain to contact these three men for his book.

"It was very difficult to find anybody to talk at all," he says. "One of the three, Cary James, is dead. According to the *Globe* or the *Enquirer*, Liberace had infect-

tricks or pretty much anything about his past," he says. "But Thorson did say that Liberace told him about his first homosexual experience, which he insisted was a linebacker for the Green Bay Packers."

Pyron also gives significant attention in the book to Liberace's brief affair with Rock Hudson around 1952, long before Hudson became a matinee idol. This information was brought to light the day after Liberace's death, when gay writer Boze Hadleigh made public excerpts of an interview he had done with Hudson years before.

Asked about his own sexuality, Pyron says, "I make no bones, as it were, about being a gay man, but I don't really wear it on my sleeve either."

A native of South Carolina, Pyron went to graduate school at the University of Virginia before joining the staff of Florida International University when it was founded 30 years ago. He was married and has three grown children, but says he has long lived a gay life and has been with his current partner for about a year.

Besides the Margaret Mitchell biography, his credits include the 1983 book *Recasting: 'Gone With the Wind' in American Culture*. It might seem odd to some that a history professor (his expertise is in the American South and the Civil War) has published three entertainment-related books, but Pyron sees his work in a broader context.

"What I've wanted to do in all my books is challenge conventional wisdom," he says. "The conventional wisdom is that *Gone With the Wind*, Margaret Mitchell and Liberace are beneath serious inquiry. The larger issue behind my books is the nature of American culture, why do we behave the way we do, how are we different from other people, and what makes us tick." ▼

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**A campy caricature of himself, Liberace began making tongue-in-cheek references to his sexuality, and in one interview said, "With a name like Liberace, which stands for freedom, anything that has the letters L-I-B in it I'm for, and that includes gay lib."**

be just a little off in most of our lives, and that allows or encourages all kinds of peculiarities in our lives as gay men. Some of us make a commitment to an absolutely out gay life, but I think that's pretty difficult for most people. Different people reach all kinds of resolutions to it, and in some ways being out is a real American way of doing things. Europeans, for example, are less politically out like this."

## Drive my car

According to Pyron's book, Liberace had three longterm relationships during his life, all similar in that they involved much younger men whom he would seduce into his life, putting each of

ed him with the plague, and he died about five years ago. Scott Thorson is still alive — a reporter from the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* just told me that they had been able to track him down. He was [allegedly] a cokehead, and after Liberace died, he wound up being charged with armed robbery. I have no idea what happened to the third, Vince Cardell.

Because Liberace was so closeted and surrounded himself with an obedient staff that would protect his image even after his death, Pyron says every bit of the evidence about Liberace's homosexuality is hearsay.

"Scott Thorson wrote in his book that Liberace did not like to talk about his old lovers, his old



## FILM

## Long Night's

Arts cover

political criminals, declared and otherwise, from both sides of the struggle. Unlike the savage meting out of "justice" by the white Afrikaaner minority, the black majority would do this in an orderly and humane way: applicants had to confess their crimes at a public tribunal and, where possible, face the relatives of their victims. If they did this, and their crimes were affirmed as political (done in the context of apartheid), they could be eligible for amnesty.

Bay Area filmmakers Frances Reid and Deborah Hoffmann got extraordinary access to these tribunals and their participants for *Long Night's Journey Into Day*, opening Friday at the Lumiere Theatre. Mingling news footage, interviews, and scenes from the "trials," this documentary — a favorite at Sundance this year — is both panoramic, presenting the deadly details of daily life under apartheid, and specific, focusing on four cases drawn from the vast number undertaken by the TRC. (A closing credit says the commission had already dealt with 7,000 perpetrators and 22,000 victims.) The film brilliantly renders the drama as a modern Greek tragedy, complete with dramatic encounters between enemies, an audience that acts as a Greek chorus, and, in the more successful cases, catharsis and perhaps closure.

## Mob scene

The first case is the one most familiar to Americans: the 1993 death of white Stanford student and activist Amy Biehl at the hands of a black mob. Biehl's parents attend the amnesty hearing for the four men serving time for killing her, and surprise everyone by not only supporting their case but meeting with their relatives. Some of the film's most evocative moments occur during this emotion-laden meeting, when the Biehls embrace, and even comfort, the mother of their daughter's killer. The specter of historical forces causing decent people to surrender their morality is everpresent in this narrative: "If we had been living reasonably," one of the perpetrators says, "we would not have killed her."

In the second sequence, Eric Taylor, a white policeman, decides to confess his part in the notorious 1985 massacre of the "Cradock 4." It would be easy to dismiss him as a one-dimensional thug, but the film resists such pigeonholing, giving him a forum in which he can talk about his conversion after reading Nelson Mandela's autobiography and seeing the American movie *Mississippi Burning*. Again, there is a powerful focus on the mothers whose children were killed, and forgiveness is not always offered. The mother of one of Taylor's victims refuses to respond to his claim that "This has become heavy on my soul." Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a benign presence throughout the film, embodies the TRC's nobility in striving for "restorative" rather than "retributive" justice, though the sheer gruesomeness of some of the killings makes absolution difficult at best.

Not all perpetrators were white. The third sequence features Robert McBride, a member of the armed wing of the African National Congress whose activities included blowing up a whites-only restaurant (killing 3 and injuring 69 others). Not all

the white victims are as understanding as the Biehls. McBride is criticized as "arrogant" by a woman whose sister died in the blast, but his intelligence and rage resonate as he wonders why no one has apologized to him for years of oppression.

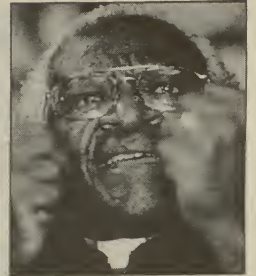
The final sequence wrenchingly explores another famous case. The "Guguleti 7" were seven black men who were trained and armed and then murdered as terrorists by secret police for a Nazi-esque training film. This was done in part for economic rea-

sons, to show the higher-ups that the police responsible for the Guguleti area were doing their job and deserved more funding (they got it).

Among these police was a black man, Mbelo, who, like his peers, was trained at Vlakplaas, one of South Africa's secret centers for death-squad training. The mothers are at their most anguished here, by turns attacking Mbelo, denouncing him for selling out "your own blood," and embracing him, sometimes reluctantly. One of the commis-

sion's members says of these killers, "You want to see that they are not monsters after all," but Mbelo doesn't offer much hope. In some of the film's chilliest scenes, he describes a casually murderous mindset that transcends any notion of humanity. "We didn't have feelings," he says. After the murders, "It felt like a day's work had been done." ▼

*Long Night's Journey Into Day* opens Friday, August 18 at the Lumiere Theatre.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu

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# Murder in miniature

by Tavo Amador

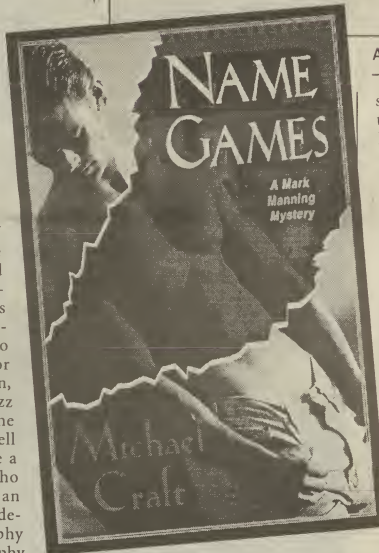
In *Name Games*, the fourth and best Mark Manning mystery (St. Martin's Press, \$23.95), author Michael Craft takes the reader into the converging worlds of miniature rooms, pornography, freedom of speech, and small-town politics. The result is an entertaining novel set once again in the small town of Dumont, Wisconsin. Like that of Jessica Fletcher's Cabot Cove or Jane Marple's St. Mary Mead, the murder rate here is growing alarmingly high, but that's not really a problem for most enthusiasts of the genre.

Fans of the series will recall that in the third book, *Body Language*, Chicago journalist Manning moves to Dumont, comes into a sizable inheritance, is suspected of murder, is named guardian for his teenage cousin Thad, is forced to see his Chicago-based architect lover Neil Waite only on weekends, and assumes control of the family newspaper. This installment finds Neil working in Dumont on an architectural project, so he and Mark are spending more time together, if only temporarily. They are also becoming surrogate parents to young Thad, an awkward process that is emotionally risky and rewarding.

Carrol Cantrell, the acknowledged "King of Miniatures," the world of tiny, scale furniture and architecture used to reproduce mini-rooms from various historical periods, arrives in Dumont to preside over a major show and competition, and the town is abuzz with excitement. The openly gay Cantrell also turns out to be a civil libertarian who frequently serves as an expert witness in defense of pornography for adults. Pornography shops have opened up on the outskirts of Dumont, and the town's District Attorney,



Author Michael Craft



soning by Manning leads to the unmasking of the true killer. From the perspective of the classic "whodunit" school of mysteries, this is the best plotted of all of Craft's novels.

It's also has a fine sense of place. Personally, I wish Manning and Neil would return to Chicago, but then I'm a big-city person. However, Craft does a good job of evoking the pleasures and limitations of small-town Midwestern life. Manning's very comfortable circumstances have made him a bit complacent about certain things, but not enough to spoil his innate honesty and integrity. His forthrightness about being gay, and the gradual acceptance of him and Neil as a couple by other locals, are handled with intelligence

and realism. It's harder to be anonymous in small towns, harder to disappear into a social or physical gay ghetto. Craft shows that the rewards are often worth the struggle.

Manning's own erotic obsessions are an important part of the story and once again one of Craft's great strengths as a writer. There's genuine passion and love between Neil and Manning. They are sexy, virile fortysomethings, whose maturity is a virtue. They have overcome problems in their relationship and are stronger for having done so.

Manning and Neil's rapprochement with Thad, movingly shown in *Body Language*, has evolved into a comfortable one of mutual respect. On the one hand, it's great to see a teenager so accepting of his gay surrogate parents, so free of anxiety about their sexual orientation, both for himself and with classmates at school. But it would have been better to have witnessed that evolution, rather than seeing only the results of the process. Still, this is a minor criticism in an otherwise first-rate mystery. ▼

Harley Kaiser, is determined to close them down. In this he is supported by, among others, the town's leading citizen, Dr. Tenelli, and Miriam Westerman, a local New Age, goddess-worshipping founder of a school for children who despises "sodomite, phallic-worshipping" Manning. Manning remains an atheist with no patience for any form of religion, and his skewering of Westerman and her belief system is amusing, if not always subtle. But it is always welcome and on target, especially when it relates to her homophobia.

## Out for re-election

When Carrol Cantrell is found murdered, suspects abound. It turns out that sheriff Doug Pierce, whom Manning has long suspected may be gay, had been having an affair with Cantrell. That discovery outs him just as he begins campaigning for re-election and just after having been endorsed by Manning's paper, *The Dumont Register*. Sheriff Pierce soon becomes the leading suspect in the Cantrell case. But careful rea-

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## BOOKS

# A romp in the ruins

by Jim Nawrocki

*One Mykonos* by James Davidson; St. Martin's Press, \$19.95

Little books are perfect for summer getaways; they pack easily, make for a quick read, and allow one to take a vacation without turning off the brain completely. If they happen to be about travel to exotic locales, all the better. James Davidson's *One Mykonos* is a small book that nonetheless serves up a tasty, satisfying melange of travel, history and gay culture. Whether you're planning an actual vacation or just a mental one, *One Mykonos* is a good traveling companion.

Davidson is a uniquely talented writer; his prose is learned and conversational at the same time, and highly entertaining. Journeying to the Greek island of Mykonos, long known as a kind of gay "resort," Davidson embarks on an elaborate meditation on history, sexuality and assorted other topics. *One Mykonos* is a delightfully rambling essay, weaving from past to present and back again, much as the mind of a gay classical scholar, immersed in the beau-

ty of a ruin-strewn place like Mykonos, might wander.

Davidson seems to do for historical writing what his fellow Englishman, Lytton Strachey, did for the art of biography in *Emi-*

*nent Victorian* nearly a hundred years ago — he dusts it off and breathes some life into it. There's even a dash of irreverence.

Like a chatty, charming lecturer addressing a hall packed with undergraduates, Davidson connects with his audience, bringing the ancients and their gods into contemporary light. He humanizes them and even has some fun with their foibles and follies.

While on Mykonos, Davidson and his friends take part in the festivities associated with the gay

Festival of the Twelve Gods. Observing these events through the lens of history and classical literature, Davidson quotes amply from an array of classical texts. These

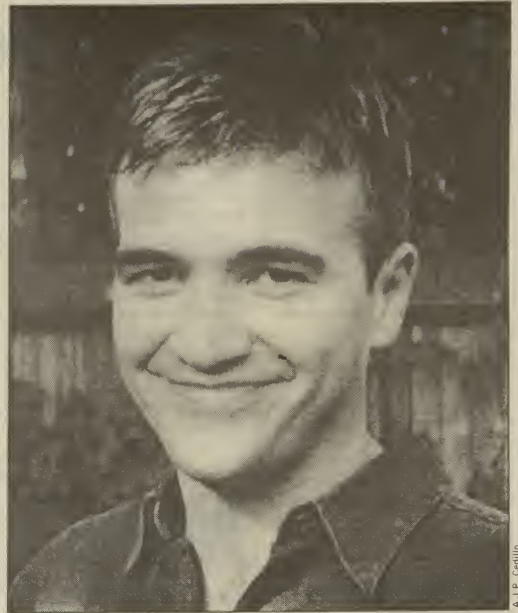
include Plato, Thucydides, Plutarch, and others. His observations sometimes yield surprising illuminations.

When he and his friends witness a somewhat daring and scandalously public erotic encounter between two men on the island's gay beach, for example, Davidson

cites classical texts for evidence of ancient Greek attitudes toward fellatio (the ancients frowned upon it as unclean).

## Ugly Americans?

Davidson's American readers will no doubt take some interest in his comments about the Yanks who travel to Mykonos. "The Americans have arrived in force," he writes, describing their appearance on the beach. "Their gym-built bodies and loud voices seem to take up much more space than a similar number of Europeans. I quickly put my shirt on." This bit



Author James Davidson

of American-bashing shouldn't come as any surprise; consider the fact that British writer Martin Amis once penned a book of essays about American popular culture entitled *The Moronic Inferno*. Poking fun at the loudmouths across the pond is something of a British pastime. Harsh as it might seem, Davidson's caricature of American gay men seems more or less accurate. He does acknowledge, however, that "ninety percent of gay liberation is thanks to [the Americans,] also."

Romping around in the dustbin of history, Davidson is an entertaining guide, dispensing his scholarship with a healthy dose of wit. At one point, he details how the ferociousness of the ancient Italians made them fearsome warriors in those days (they sliced dogs in half, among other things). He then remarks of the modern Italians vacationing with him: "The greatest fear I have of them now is that they will look at what I'm wearing and sneer." Niles and Frasier couldn't have said it better. ▼

# Grateful dead

by Jim Piechota

*Zombie00* by Brad Gooch; Overlook Press, \$24.95

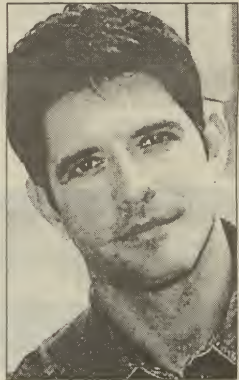
Well-respected writer Brad Gooch's latest fiction offering *Zombie00* takes a relaxed, almost affable look into the life of a boy who is in the process of being "zombified" — the art of being made into a zombie. After a mesmerizing visit to an ancient artifact museum's Voodoo Room in Scranton, Pennsylvania with his parents, the unnamed narrator begins his descent into the world of sadomasochism and bondage as he is systematically "kept" by a string of masters, to whom he plays a willing slave.

His experience begins with aggressive punk Mark, 15, who bestows the name "Zombie" on him and demands simple menial tasks from him. One of his demands is to taunt a rough group of boys, and Zombie is beaten to a pulp.

Zombie then meets Mitch and his girlfriend Paulette, high school sweethearts with a riotous edge, and all embark on a crime spree that ends when Zombie pulls a gun in a funeral home and starts shooting at random.

His father, having had enough of his antics, kicks him out of the house with \$300, which Zombie uses to take a bus to New York City, where he could "live in constant terror and anonymity and challenge." There, he meets the ultra-sadistic drug lord Sir Edward, MD and his pro-wrestler friend and probable AOL-user "WSeal64735." Sir Edward ups the bondage ante by making Zombie endure "the longest, worst thrashing with long, big black straps all bound together into a single black leather wing."

Amazingly, Sir Edward actually becomes too vicious and abusive even for Zombie. Cast out again, he becomes newly owned by a strangely perverse cable access star/steroid-crazed bodybuilder named Control Freak,



Zombie Brad Gooch

who looks "like a gila monster turned into a human." The domination and worship scene is more charged and interesting in this sequence, but it's still insufficient to keep both master and servant satisfied for any extended amount of time.

Zombie's search for the perfect dominator then broadens to more expansive locales like Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where Zombie finally discovers the true genesis of his longings.

For the most part, Gooch's prose is unadorned, and his thin plot trickles languorously. But there are moments of brightness. He takes time to lavishly, beautifully describe the underwater "supernatural splendor" of a Caribbean scuba-diving adventure with picturesque ease and skill, and he's certainly done his homework on the emotional and physical mechanisms driving co-dependent personalities.

But *Zombie00* ultimately reads like some divine inspiration from cult god John Waters, only with less imaginative heft and fewer idiosyncrasies. As the book is closed, we're left wild-eyed and light-headed, much like Zombie himself, wondering what it is we've just read. ▼

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# Joy, sung 150 voices strong

by Jason Serinus

*Eos*  
Boston Gay Men's Chorus  
Reyben M. Reynolds III,  
Music Director

To mark the New Millennium, the 18-year-old Boston Gay Men's Chorus commissioned San Francisco-based composer David Conte to write a choral symphony for them. Conte, a Professor of Composition at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music who has also written works for the famed men's choral group Chanticleer, the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, and the Oakland-East Bay Symphony, in turn called upon his friend and collaborator Nicholas Giardini to write the libretto.

The two men then spent a year working with the chorus to create *Eos*, a dramatic, uplifting 35-minute work featuring the 150-member BGMC, tenor and baritone soloists, and a 33-piece orchestra. The choral symphony has just been released on CD, paired with five *Old American Songs* by Aaron Copland and "The Mystic Trumpeter," a short work by Boston composer Eric Helmuth (text: Walt Whitman).

Consisting of seven continuous sections, *Eos* opens with a beautiful, mysterious, somewhat suspended orchestral prelude that represents an Invocation to Dawn, "the beginning of time." When the chorus enters, the mood is totally positive. The men rejoice, "This is our time embracing without fear, without shame Sing. Dance. Love."

The second vocal section builds on this feeling, becoming increasingly exultant as chorus, chimes and tambourine unite in "Dancing in the Light." The music builds until the chorus claps in excitement, "Soaring, swinging, dancing two by two." Then a shift occurs, as "hate creeps in," first underneath, and then over the elation. Gay love is poisoned, as the

epithets "fairy, faggot, pervert, queer" and physical violence take their toll. "Hate turns inside," and gays become "the enemy in each other's eyes."

## Come undone

With spirits broken and "dance undone," the symphony transitions into the fourth vocal movement, when solo tenor, baritone and chorus address the pain and defiance of "those who refused to lie." The chorus memorializes these heroes, singing that they "will be remembered." The music continues sweet and tender into the fifth section, when the tenor soloist reaches out his hand,

searching eyes for "a soul-mate's knowing smile." The baritone offers his hand in friendship, and they agree to "learn together" in the "great adventure." Once again, the music becomes positive, as the chorus celebrates "embracing, revealing, reveling in feeling without fear, without shame."

The concluding section returns to exaltation, as "love simply turns inside" and the voices of the chorus rise, "Filled with truth/Filled with pride."

Lest this sound like either a sentimentalized series of sugary stanzas, or a warmed-over Louise Hay "Love Yourself" treatise set to music, rest assured that *Eos* is a

score of unflinching interest. Both music and text successfully meld in a manner that many a composer would prove wise to study. Conte and the chorus seem at their best when dancing, celebrating and loving; neither the music nor the sweet voices achieve the requisite sting when singing anti-gay epithets.

Though some may feel that the composer overuses bells and gongs, the positive melody, rhythm and affirmation of this piece provide a rewarding journey upon which most will surely wish to embark.

The BGMC and orchestra do an equally fine job with gay com-

poser Aaron Copland's *Old American Songs*. That listeners may discover themselves unconsciously singing or whistling along on "Simple Gifts" is proof of Copland's genius in elevating folk melody to the level of high art. Eric Helmuth's "The Mystic Trumpeter" doesn't consistently rise to this level, his attempt to capture Whitman's ecstasy and joy sounding nowhere near as joyous as Conte's music. *Eos* retains its place of honor as centerpiece of this fine disc. ▼

*Eos* is available from the BGMC ([www.bgmc.org](http://www.bgmc.org)).

# Moby's soul

## An electronic odyssey

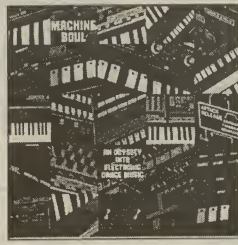
by Gregg Shapiro

In the liner notes for *Machine Soul: An Odyssey Into Electronic Dance Music* (Rhino), Moby, the two-disc set's producer (and contributor), writes that "predictions were being made that 'electronic music' would be 'the next big thing' in America. But given the nature of the electronic music world, a 'grunge'-style pop landslide never seemed to materialize." Moby goes on to say that in spite of that fact, "electronic music certainly seems to be the dominant musical form in the Western world."

The 28-track compilation that is *Machine Soul* begins its electronic musical history lesson with the 1978 song "The Robots" by German electronic music pioneers Kraftwerk, and continues with contributions from The Normal (doing the original version of "Warm Leatherette," a song later made famous by Grace Jones), and a couple of tracks produced by

groundbreaker Giorgio Moroder (Donna Summer's "I Feel Love," and "The Number One Song In Heaven" by Sparks). Popular New Wave acts such as Gary Numan, Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark, and New Order are represented alongside more obscure hardcore acts from the same period (Throbbing Gristle, Cabaret Voltaire). Tracks by Afrika Bambaataa ("Planet Rock") and Newcleus ("Jam On Revenge") are good examples of how electronic music also infiltrated the sounds coming from the black community.

The second disc illustrates how electronic music evolved out of the punk/New Wave clubs and onto the dance floors at mainstream dance clubs across the country. Tracks such as "Pump Up The Volume" by M/A/R/R/S (featuring a vocal sample by the late Ofra Haza), "Big Fun" by Inner City, and "What Time Is Love" by The KLF were all massive dance club sensations. Still, electronic music managed to maintain something of a cult status despite



the popularity of bands such as Depeche Mode. Electronic music acts such as BT, Underworld and Fluke continue to do their own thing, while Moby and The Chemical Brothers have crossed over and achieved mainstream success.

Speaking of Moby, the release of *Machine Soul* has finally given me an opportunity to write about Moby's acclaimed 1999 album *Play* (V2). Moby is not the first artist working in the electronic music genre to combine the seemingly distant worlds of the blues and electronica. Little Axe's un-

derrated *The Wolf That House Built* (from 1994) did a good job of creating an intersection between the blues and electronic beats, and R. L. Burnside, whose "It's Bad You Know," graced *The Sopranos* soundtrack, follows a similar route.

But it is Moby's *Play* that is the most fully realized example of the wonders that can occur when these genres merge. *Play* is at turns startling ("Honey," "Body Rock," "Find My Baby"), revelatory ("Why Does My Heart Feel So Bad?," "Natural Blues," "Run On"), and simply gorgeous ("Porcelain," "Rushing," "Everloving" and "Inside"). *Play* is an album that will play on longer after you've gotten bored with other electronic music (or blues) albums. ▼

## FILM

# Strange therapy



Understand, we are not endorsing this film, but the mere description of the plot of the new sci-fi thriller *The Cell* had us doubled over in fits of incredulous guffaws. To begin with, we follow our heroine Catherine Deane (Jennifer Lopez, pictured), a psychologist who is experimenting with a radical new therapy, into the psyche of a serial killer.

OK, we know what you are thinking: Jennifer Lopez as a psychologist? And when she enters the killer's mind, is there room for her whole caboose? Also stars Vincent D'Onofrio (yum) and Vince Vaughn (double yum), opening Friday in the Bay Area. ▼



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## TELEVISION

# Fear and loathing on the campaign trail

by Victoria A. Brownworth

**B**eware the Ides — or is that ironies? — of August. Just in case the Republican Convention wasn't enough indication that we are now officially in hell, the entire Western United States is on fire. And Barbara Walters dragged Monica Lewinsky back to *The View* for one more pre-convention interview, just to confirm that she's still fat and stupid. All of which may explain the current messianic trend among Democrats. First Gore chooses Joe Lieberman (the Connecticut Jew in the Protestant Court) for a pre-convention bounce — of course, the militia types out there would say the bounce is either a) because Jews control the media and they manufactured it, b) because there's too little white pride out there, or c) it's a Zionist conspiracy — then Clinton goes to confession in front of a few thousand evangelicals. And you thought it was getting rough on *Survivor* island!

The Lieberman pick was the news event last week, trumping the million wildfires out West and every attempt by George Bush to get back in the limelight over something other than executing the mentally retarded in a two-for-one on Texas's death row.

We loved the way the media and pundits — especially Peter "I don't hate Jews, I just prefer the Arabs who kill them" Jennings — fell all over themselves trying to avoid appearances of anti-Semitism in an attempt to find ways to say a Jew can't win outside New York (yes, we know Lieberman's from Connecticut, but every self-respecting Protestant knows that Connecticut's just a suburb of what they call "Jew" York).

We also enjoyed Rep. Maxine Waters, head of the Black Political Caucus, telling Ted Koppel that the days of conflicts between blacks and Jews were over, a mere Connecticut minute before Lew Alcorn got canned from the Dallas NAACP for telling a radio host that blacks had to be wary of Jews because all they care about is money. There was a special irony in seeing Rev. Jesse Jackson standing on the White House lawn (having just received the Congressional Medal for his civil rights work, along with concentration camp survivor Elie Wiesel) telling reporters Lieberman was a great choice and decrying Alcorn's comments. (Can you take me to Hymietown? Guess he forgot that little *faux pas* of the 1992 campaign.)

Of course, we do get a little *spilkis* when Rev. Jerry Falwell comes out in support of a Democrat and Bill Bennett says he'd be happy to write Lieberman's

acceptance speech.

Mostly we loved the way Gore set the bar so high with his, "Oh, we don't care about little things like religious difference any more, do we?" comments. That masterful touch didn't leave much wiggle room for the bigots to squirm through.

Yet squirm through they did, mostly in the form of "jokes" on late-night TV. This is where America allows its racism, sexism, homophobia and anti-Semitism to slither out into public view (because the KKK website really doesn't count). Leno said Gore-Lieberman sounded like a personal injury law firm (read: Jewish ambulance chasers). Bill Maher referred to the 13-point bounce Gore got from the Lieberman announcement, narrowing the 15-point lead Bush had to two points: "It was the first time a Jew ever took 80 percent off" (read: more

money-grubbing Jews). Yes, kids, these are anti-Semitic jokes. And, if we may paraphrase another Connecticut, Martha Stewart, that is *not* a good thing.

What was a good thing was the unveiling of Jewish culture and religion, which for most Americans is utterly foreign, on the evening news. We also found Hadassah Lieberman's revisiting of the tired old Dukakis/Ferraro/et al "I come from immigrants speech" quite refreshing. The new spin wasn't so much the children-of-Holocaust-survivors angle (though it's hard for some of us to get past that with dry eyes), but her addition of inclusion — telling the crowd that hers was a uniquely American story that we all share, and reclaiming the diversity issue the Republicans tried to steal in Philadelphia. If nothing else, Gore has forced America — and the media — to address what used to be called "the Jewish question" and put diversity to the test. The Republicans showcased it (to the lowest TV ratings in history, we feel compelled to add), but the Democrats are doing it.

Speaking of conventions, we truly wish the Reform Party was televising theirs. Just in case the Jesse Ventura aspect escaped anyone, last week's brawl over who got the party nomination made us wistful for real politics — if not the WWF. We were heartened to note that even the party of disenfranchised lunatics wasn't entirely convinced Pat Buchanan the right man for them. (We note Buchanan, whose most recent book claims Hitler had some good ideas, has said nothing about Lieberman.)

Speaking of disenfranchised lunatics, would Ralph Nader please find another political affiliation — he's giving the Green Party a bad name. When quizzed by Tim Russert on *Meet the Press* about his views versus Gore's and Bush's, he was a tad too dismissive of queer and women's issues for us. He's still the one-trick pony he always was. Which is good in a consumer advocate, but bad in a presidential candidate.

## Pug ugly

Speaking of bad experiments, *Big Brother* just gets creepier and creepier. Now the "houseguests" (that's Swedish for prisoners) have been given a pet, a little pug dog named Chiquita (this seems a sleazy way around not having a Latina in the compound). We are on record as being of the feline persuasion ourselves,

thus know the reason the producers chose a dog is because dogs are such publicity hounds, and no self-respecting cat would be caught dead in that *Big Brother* decor. Plus, the producers had to pick a dog because they had to find some animal more stupid than the houseguests themselves, and they already have chickens.

Watching the group get the dog was like seeing children on the streets of Calcutta being given food. It was so obvious these people are starved for any meaningful emotional contact that isn't being psychobabbled by either their fellow "guests" or the TV pop psychologists. Of course, the dog immediately tried to drown itself in the pathetic little *Big Brother* pool once it realized it wasn't going to be allowed to leave for three months and also wasn't going to get the half-million dollars. But Josh dove right into the pool fully clothed to save the little woof.

Which might help him this week, as he is one of three houseguests up for banishment. Karen and Cassandra are the other two. Karen remains one of the more interesting players, since she is deeply in need of daily therapy and creates lots of intrigue. Cassandra is way too smart and politically aware to even be on this show, and so we think she too must have a piece missing for signing on. However, we voted twice — once against Karen and once against Josh — in an effort to maintain Cassandra's black identity on the show. She's trying to educate the other players about racism. And they need all the help they can get.

Meanwhile, we are pushing for a Brittany/Jamie liaison now that stripper girl Jordan has

taken her bisexual inclinations into banishment. They spend more time in each others' arms than most lesbian couples we know. And if Josh goes, who knows what might happen.

## Hello hellhole

As for that other little hellhole, *Survivor* island, we wish to say we called it way back when: All the Pagong tribe have been voted off, and only Tagis are left. We still think queer Richard and Navy Seal Rudy will be the last left standing. We love those two. Kelly and Sue were having a tight little thing, and Sue actually broke down when discussing her feelings for Kelly, but Kelly threw her over for Colleen, and now Colleen has been kicked off (only because Kelly got immunity) and the fur is really flying. Stay tuned. It's just like the Reform Party.

Speaking of convention — as in flouting it — occasionally, TV gives us nice moments of absurdity, irony and just plain bizarreness. On *Politically Incorrect*, in a discussion about violence in the movies, John Waters, talking about Cecil B. DeMille, said in an aside to host Bill Maher, "He was a foot-fetishist." Patty Hearst, playing in Waters'

new film, added, "He was a shrimper." BM: "A shrimper?" JW: "A foot-fetishist." PH: "He liked to suck toes." BM: "That is so sick. I would rather be shot than have someone's toe in my mouth."

PI also gave us our runner-up quote of the week, from comedian Elaine Bosler, who said of Lieberman's speech, "He thanked God so many times I thought he'd won a Grammy."

Another runner-up quote of the week came from that other comedian, Bill Clinton. At the evangelical meeting-cum-interview, the Rev. Gates said, "What do you say to those who claim yours and Hillary's church-going is an act?" Clinton: "Well, at least it's a consistent act. [Pause till laughter dies down.] I think most people would say I need it, don't you?" Gore has a hard act (pun intended) to follow.

But the unsurpassed quote of the week came from Lieberman. In response to the Republican claim that he is really a Republican in Democrat's clothing, Lieberman asserted, "That's like saying the veterinarian and the taxidermist are the same thing because with both you get your dog back!"

Oy! You go, go!! ▼



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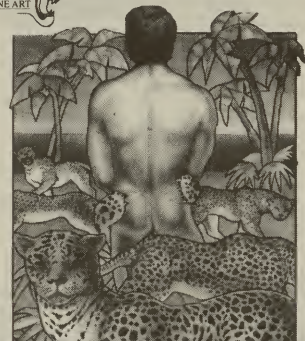
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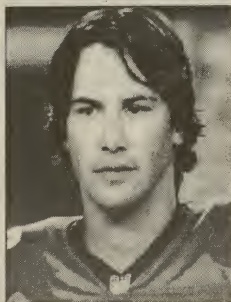
▶ page 30

## Pass the pigskin

Truth be told, it's not the plot that interested us in the new movie *The Replacements*, which opened last week in the Bay Area. With the playoffs approaching, the Washington Sentinels have just gone on strike. The team's owner, Edward O'Neil (Jack Warden), hires coach Jimmy McGinty (Gene Hackman) to recruit a team of replacement

players. Call them gridiron scabs.

In the immortal words of comic Rodney Dangerfield, the underdog replacements "don't get no respect." But their number does include wannabe quarterback Shane Falco (Keanu Reeves). And that's this movie's hidden appeal factor: Keanu in football pants. Keanu in the locker room showers. Keanu wearing all sorts of athletic equipment. Keanu with a towel dangling from his cup. We know a few souls who have braved the multiplex for this turkey, and we know why they were there. ▼



Keanu, suited up



# OUT & ABOUT

Original images of Elvis, the Beatles, and Mediterranean moodscapes adorn Barry Singer gallery in Petaluma. See Saturday.



"Elvis Presley" 1958, by Norman Bergsma

## Calendare by Mark Mardon

### ¡Arriba con Marga!

**C**all me biased, but I live in the Mission District, where the name **Culture Clash** designates not just a Latino/Chicano comedic group, but a way of life. By now it's gospel that the Mission is being taken over by dot-communists. As much as I'd like to dispel that notion (some of my best friends work for and/or helped start dot-coms), I have to admit "invasion" seems a fairly apt choice of words for the gold-rushers.

Though I'm hardly an oldcomer, having lived in the neighborhood for less than a decade (as a refugee from the Lower Haight), I've been in the 'hood long enough to see burgeoning signs of displaced persons, businesses, services and the good ol' scuzzy but homey quality of life that once characterized the Mission. In the New Mission, other signs abound — well-polished ones above the doors of designer eateries that employ car-parks to run around the streets in red and blue jackets that silently scream: "This is my neighborhood now, bub! so kiss my rear end," or something subliminal like that.

Which brings me to **Marga Gomez**, who is decidedly Old Mission. I remember seeing her do her funnybone-breaking Latina Lesbian schtick (and life story) way back in the mid-'80s at the long-defunct Valencia Rose, the joint Ron Lanza kept running for eons before he created the more recently defunct Josie's. Lots of places have gone defunct in the time Marga has been on the scene.

Now Marga and Culture Clash — in a joint appearance with the Afro-Cuban dance ensemble **Orquesta La Moderna Tradición** — are putting their comedic muscles into raising funds for an agency that isn't a bit funny, but which brings joy to many people's hearts, **Arriba Juntos**, a Mission District nonprofit employment and training agency that's celebrating its 35th anniversary this Friday, August 18 at Herbst Theatre.

In all seriousness, Arriba Juntos is performing the vital task of helping low-income San Franciscans receive up-to-date, comprehensive job training, placement assistance, and support services with the goal of helping individuals and their families achieve self-sufficiency through rewarding job opportunities and improved quality of life.

Not even a dot-communist would deny such services to displaced, down-on-their-luck San Franciscans, right? So whether you own a New Mission SUV or an Old Mission dunker, put your foot to the peddle this Friday and scoot on over to Herbst Theatre. Better yet, take the 49-Mission/Van Ness; it'll help you appreciate where Marga and Culture Clash are coming from. ▼



Marga Gomez

Irene Young

"What's So Funny About the Mission?" takes place Friday, August 18, at Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. Comedy show at 7:30pm; dance program at 9:30pm. Tix range \$25-\$70 (comedy & dance programs separate or as package). Tix: 392-4400. Info: Arriba Juntos, 487-3251.

## Fri 18

### Magic Theatre

Opening night: "Talking With Angels," a play based on Gitta Mallasz' nonfiction work depicting the deep spiritual awakening of four Hungarians in their struggle to find meaning in their everyday lives against the backdrop of WWII. Directed by Joseph Ragno. Adapted for the stage by Shelley Mitchell with dramaturgy by David Ford. Featuring Linda Lowry, Shelley Mitchell, Rachael Steinberg and Bobby Wineapple. \$25 Fri. & Sun.; \$30 Sat.; \$20 Wed. & Thu. 8:30pm. Fort Mason Center, Bldg. D. 441-8822.

### Eureka Theatre

42nd Street Moon presents "The Good Companions," Johnny Mercer and André Previn's 1974 musical, created from JB Priestley's beloved novel. Set in Europe during the Great Depression, the story follows a troupe of British music-hall entertainers as they travel the British Isles. The score includes songs such as "Stagestruck," "The Pleasure of Your Company," and "Darkest Before the Dawn." Featuring Don Cima, Alison Aylers, Bill Fahrner, and Marsha (Ward) Lanzo. \$25 Fri., Sat., Sun.; \$19 seniors/students. Thru Aug. 27. 215 Jackson St. (at Battery). Info/tix: 788-1125; www.42ndStMoon.com

### New Conservatory Theatre Center

Extended run: "Another American: Asking & Telling," written by and starring Marc Wolf, directed by Joe Mantello. The play takes the audience on a national tour of sexual politics, the American military, sanctioned discrimination, and its human fallout. \$25 (\$20 Thur. & Sun.). 8pm (2pm Sun.). Thru Aug. 27. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). 861-8972.

### New Conservatory Theatre Center

"The Fitting Room," written and directed by Kathryn McCarty. A peek inside a ladies dressing room in this voyeuristic and comic perspective on the search for meaning, truth and the perfect pair of jeans. \$15. Thur. Sept. 10, Thur. & Fri. 8pm; Sat. 5pm & 9pm; Sun. 2pm. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market St.). Tix: 861-8972.

### MACT Video Night

Men of All Colors Together hold their monthly viewing at a private residence in the Castro. Tonight's showing: "Once Were Warriors." \$2 donation (refreshments served). 7pm. 490 Collingwood St. (at 22nd St.), Apt. 3. Info: 675-0201.

### First Unitarian Center

Buddhism at Millennium's Edge presents Richard Baker, Abbott, Head Teacher and founder of the Dharma Sangha Centers located in Crestone, Colorado and the Black Forest in Germany, speaking on "Contemporary Ancient Wisdom. Baker was second Abbott of SF Zen Center (1971-1983) and was instrumental in the founding of Green Gulch Farm in Marin County. \$15. 7:30pm. 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary). 863-3133; www.sfzc.org

### Mock Cafe

Improv comedy with Dojo Fabuloso, a comedy group with Tim Bland, Dana Corey, Nova Dasalla, Steven Douglas, John Filgas, and Nick Leonard. Every Friday at 8 pm for the rest of August at least. Free admission before 8:30, and you can stay for the rest of the evening of comedy after Dojo Fabuloso. 1074 Valencia (near 22nd St.). Info: 641-0235.

## Sat 19

### Herbst Theater

The Gay Asian Pacific Alliance presents "Runway 2000," the 12th Annual Miss GAPA and Gay Asian Pacific Man Pageant. More than a drag

show or bodybuilding competition, "Runway" is a night of camp, comedy, glamour and fun. Featuring the song stylings of SayMusic artist Yvette, plus the GAPA Dance company. 7pm showtime. Hosted by Tita Aida with Mr. & Miss GAPA 1999 Mark da Boto and Holly Peño. \$18.50 adv.; \$20 door. Reserved seating: \$30 front orchestra; \$50 box seats. Tix at City Box Office or contact GAPA at 282-GAPA; email at info@gapa.org, or surf www.gapa.org.

### New Conservatory Theatre Center

Opening night: "Visiting Mr. Green," by Jeff Baron, starring Dean Goodman as an elderly, retired dry cleaner who wanders into traffic on New York City's Upper West Side and is almost hit by a car driven by Ross Gardiner, a 29-year-old gay corporate exec. From there their two lives entwine. \$15-\$25 (\$13-\$23 with Pride Season subscription). 8pm. Thru Sept. 10.

### Asian Art Museum

"Chinese Wire Ring Puzzles Demonstration," featuring wire puzzle maker Ruan Genquan, visiting from China, demonstrating the intriguing craft of Chinese interlocking ring puzzles. Free with museum admission \$7 (\$5 seniors; \$4 youth). 11am-4pm. Asian Art Museum, Gruhn Court, golden Gate Park. 379-8800.

### Barry Singer Gallery, Petaluma

Opening reception: "Dominique Bollinger: Silent Landscapes / Norman Bergsma: Music Idols," an exhibition of B&W photographs. Bergsma's images from the 1950s & '60s capture intimate, relatively unknown portraits of Elvis and the Beatles; Bollinger's platinum and toned silver prints explore the symbolism of natural and architectural icons in his Italian/Mediterranean surroundings. Free. 3:30-5:30pm. Show runs thru Sept. 23 (Tue.-Sat., 11am-6pm). 11 Petaluma Blvd. North. Info: (707) 781-3200; www.singergallery.com

### Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley

"A Celebration of Queer Dharma," a day for LGBT Buddhists and their friends to meditate, chant, and socialize. Bring bag lunch. \$15 donation. Registration 9:30am; program 10am-5pm. Info: Tova at (510) 655-6169.

### El Rio

"Banana," a tea dance for men and their friends, on the patio with DJs Ron (funk/soul/r&b) and Vincent Kwok (house). Complimentary omnivore barbecue. \$6 entry. 3-8pm (barbecue 3-5pm). 21 + w/D. 3158 Mission St. (btwn Caesar Chavez & Valencia). 282-3325.

### Hi Ball Lounge

As part of the First Annual Bandwidth Conference, a first-time gathering of the music and technology industries, "A Night of Glitter, Glam & Rock" showcases the stellar talents of See Jane Run, Blue Period, and Magnified. \$7. 9:30pm. 473 Broadway Ave. Info: www.seejanerun.com and/or BandwidthConference.com

### California Club

SwingOut! presents "Queer Swing Dance(s)," with beginning swing lessons 7-8:30pm (no partner necessary), followed by DJ dancing to 1940s big-band music until midnight. \$7-\$10 slidding (NOTAFLOP). 1750 Clay St. (btwn Polk and Van Ness). Info: 339-8103; www.queerswing.com

### The Usual Night Club, San Jose

Club Papi moves to a new location for its "Official Gay Pride Latin Stage thank-you party," which happens to coincide with promoter Jamie Awad's 10th annual 21st birthday celebration. DJ Mike spins Spanish & house in the main room; DJ Chago mixes hip hop, Latin house & disco in the front room. Hot papi & mami go-gos. Lots of giveaways. \$12. 9pm-2am. 21 + w/D. 400

S. 1st St., downtown San Jose. Info: (408) 793-0113; www.papipresents.com

## Sun 20

### Sharon Meadows, Golden Gate Park

20th annual "Comedy Day Celebration," billed as "the only event of its kind in the world," four hours of free comedy featuring Tom Ammiano, Will Durst, Bob Sarlatte, Father Guido Sarducci, Brian Copeland, Carlos Alazarqui, Diane Amos, Robert Duchaine, Greg Fitzsimmons, Jake Johanssen, Steven Kravitz, Kevin Meany, Sue Murphy, Mark Pitta, Scott Silverman, Dan St. Paul, Johnny Steel, Barry Weinrub, Kathleen Madigan, Dave Steel, Dave Schappelle, Rene Hicks and Bobby Slayton. Free. Noon-4pm. Info: 437-4999; www.comedyday.com

### Yerba Buena Center

"Tube 2000 Action Sports Film Festival," films long and short capturing the crazy action and massive skills of today's hottest athletes/adventurers in snowboarding, skateboarding, stunt biking, surfing, wakeboarding and other X-treme sports. Thrills, spills, grinds, and X-treme bods abound. Two different programs, tonight and tomorrow night (8/21). \$7/night. 9pm. Info: 978-2787; http://expn.go.com/website/tubefilmfest/

### Paradise Lounge

The Tuck & Roll Players present "Club Inferno," a rock 'n' roll drag revue created and produced by Peter Fogel and Kelly Kittell. Starring Connie Champagne, Arturo Galster, Leigh Crow, Trauma Flintstone, Kennedy, Peter Fogel, and Birdie-Bob Watt. Will Danté ever find her way back to the world of the living? \$15. 8pm. 308 11th St. 621-1911.

## Mon 21

### Piaf's

QComedy.com presents Gay Comedy Showcast, hosted by Julia Jackson, with Ann Lippert, Stephanie Howard, Gretchen Ropes, DeeDee Flores, Nancy Magnelli, Jeff Kryslar, Mike Miller, Nick Leonard, Dan Rothenberg and Bridget Schwartz. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). 541-5610.

### 26 Mix

"Tranquility Base," a night of ambient sounds with top-notch DJs Frank, Dylan, and Jonas Judd. 26Mix is a "soundbar" dedicated to the DJ and dance music scene, smaller than a nightclub but larger than a traditional bar. It's a place for those who like the family feel of a local bar and the great sound and dancefloor aspects of clubs. The EAW sound-system, installed by JK Sound, is 75% complete and will eventually provide sound for every nook and cranny in the place. The idea is to provide sound clarity versus sheer volume. Mixed clientele. Capacity: 225 people. No cover. 9pm-2am. Located on Mission St. btwn 26th St. & Cesar Chavez. Info: 826-7378; www.26mix.com

### Zeitgeist

"Zeitgeist International Film Festival," an outdoor film festival offering a potpourri of really independent films from around the globe, shown in the spacious beer garden of the Zeitgeist. Special attraction: smoke and drink at the movies! Featuring the 1999 SIFF Silver Spire award-winning short, "Bob" by Matt Smith, "Jimmy Ritz" by Bill Flannigan, and more than 10 other shorts. Doors open at 8pm; show at dusk (9pm); Bar-B-Que until 10pm. \$5 cover. 21 and over. 199 Valencia (at Duboce). Info: 255-7505.

### James Lick Middle School

Class begins: City College presents a semester-long "Gay Male Relationships Class" taught by Greg Merrill. \$33 on-site registration. 6:30-9:30pm classes. 1220 Noe (at 25th St.). Info: 206-8217, ext. 1.

## Tue 22

### Yerba Buena Center

New exhibition: "Multiple Sensations," projects exploring seriality, collecting, and obsessions. Featuring works by Michael Light ("Drift"),





Mr. & Miss GAPA Mark da Boto and Holly Peño chauffer GAPA's "Runway 2000 Pageant" at Herbst Theater. See Saturday.

Catherine Chalmers ("Food Chain"), Wenyon and Gamble ("Bibliomancy"), and, from the amateur photographic archives of Gary Lee Boas, "Starstruck: Photographs from a Fan," thousands of candid snapshots of celebrities and nearly forgotten cult personalities, taken 1966-1980 with pre-paparazzi innocence. Lots more. Tues.-Sun., 11am-6pm; Thur.-Fri. 11am-8pm. Galleries, Grand Lobby, and Screening Room, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Info: 978-ARTS; www.yerbaue-naarts.org

## Wed 23

### Theater Artaud

Opening night: "AfroSolo Festival" opens with a dessert and wine reception (7pm) with entertainment by virtuoso bassist Marcus Shelby, followed at 8pm by Program A: performances by SF Ballet dancer Chidozie Nzerem in a new work choreographed by Robert Henry Johnson; Alison Wright as a cross-dressing blues icon of the Harlem Renaissance; Thomas Robert Simpson in a dramatic exploration of the Civil Rights movement through the evolution of a Black Militant; and Opal Venus Reese in a movement-driven journey exploring the path from inner conflict to peace. \$16. 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

### Venue 9

Footloose presents "The Songbird Music Series," a live blend of "Smooth Grooves for the Acoustic Ear," hosted by Forest Sun, a long-time resident of Santa Fe, New Mexico, where in high school he and his friends initiated the all-night jam sessions that formed the backbone of his musical experience. Now residing in SF, Sun's diverse music styles blend folk, gospel, soul, blues, and jazz. He claims as influences Ricki Lee Jones, Taj Mahal, Van Morrison, Lyle Lovette, and many others. Joining him

will be multi-instrumentalist, composer, recording artist, screenprinter and openly bisexual Mark Growden, who regularly tours the Western U.S. with his band The Electric Piñata. His recordings include "Downstairs Karaoke" and "This Piggy" (Wiggle Biscuit Records). This monthly series at Venue 9 will give songwriters and musicians a voice and a venue where the artists can be fully appreciated without the espresso machines or buzz of cafes, bars and clubs. \$8. 8pm. 252 Ninth St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). 289-2000; www.ftloose.org

### New Meat Campus Theater

Join queer stand-up comic Blake every Wednesday as the New Meat Campus hosts its ever-so-popular Amateur Strip Contest. Guys compete each week to get their groove on and clothes off, pocket some cash, make some friends, and have a lot of naked fun. Entrance to the campus also includes use of the Dot-Cum Lounge, the world's first "Internet Sex Café." Wednesdays at 9pm. 220 Jones St. (at Turk). 673-3384; www.newmeat-campus.com

## Thu 24

### Magic Theatre

Opening night: Word for Word presents "The Bunchgrass Edge of the World," Annie Proulx's "searing and comical family saga set on the high Wyoming plains... in a world rife with cruel shock and unexpected love... peopled with windburned, fatalistic westerners." Directed by Sandra Langsner Crews. With Word for Word veterans Susan Harloe and Amy Kosow, along with Brian Keith Russell, Dennis Ludlow, Paul Finocchiaro, B. Chico Purdman, and Eryka Raines. \$22. 8:30pm (3pm Sun.). Northside, Bldg. D, Fort Mason Center. 437-6775.

### Dance Mission Theatre

Opening-night gala performance: "Sa-

credly Immortal," an original urban rock musical written and directed by Robin Taylor, deemed "a modern day story of life, death, and resurrection," a story tracing a heroine's struggles with homosexuality, violence, spirituality, love and ethnicity. \$25 gala; \$18 other nights. Thru Oct. 14. 3316 24th St. (at Mission). Tix: 924-3325.

### Theater Artaud

"AfroSolo Festival" continues with Program B: performances by Awele, portraying the story of the Black women who played a pivotal role in the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott; Cedric Brown relating one man's wish for recognition and freedom to be himself (a nod to composer and musician Billy Strayhorn, who worked with Duke Ellington); Gaidi Nkruma in a story about the affect violence can have on three generations of a Black family (directed by Rhodessa Jones); and Robert Henry Johnson executing a solo dance exploring the transition between boyhood and manhood. \$16. 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

### SoMarts Cultural Center

Choreographer Pearl Ubungen and mediator glenda drew present "W.W.W." — wild wild west/world wide web, in conjunction with Media Alliance and Filipinos for Affirmative Action. Part of the "Makibaka!" CD-Rom and Performance Project. A dance illuminating the history of the Philippine American War and offering current perspectives of the Filipino American community on resistance and struggle. A live netcast of the performance can be viewed on the Web at www.redrocketmedia.com/makibaka. \$10-\$12 (\$8 students/seniors). 8pm. 934 Brannan St. (btwn 8th & 9th). Tix: 221-7573.

### Printer's Inc.

Gay novelist Brian Pera reads from and signs copies of his debut work, *Troublemaker*, narrated by a gay hustler in his early 20s. Free. 7pm. 2275 Market St.

### City Nights

"Club Faith," the city's only 18+ gay nightclub, welcomes guest DJ Neon Leon, just back from his blast with the Reloop Club Tour. He'll be joining resident DJ Ruben Mancias in the main room, with DJs Jay-R and Larry spinning hip hop and R&B in the front room. \$10 cover. 9:30pm-2am. 18+ w/D. 715 Harrison St. (at 3rd St.). 487-6616; www.faithsf.com

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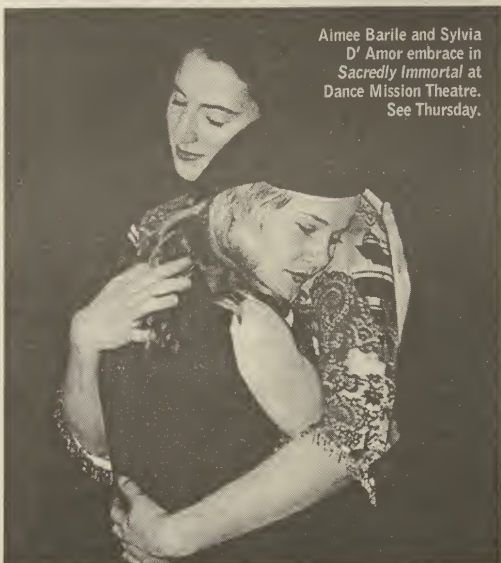
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Aimee Barile and Sylvia  
D' Amor embrace in  
*Sacredly Immortal* at  
Dance Mission Theatre.  
See Thursday.



# Jumping into a Rising Tide

by Deborah Peifer

The news that Rising Tide Press had closed was not surprising, given the gloomy state of lesbian publishing today, but when word came that Rising Tide was back in action, it seemed only right to ask the new owners a little bit about their reasons for jumping in to the very risky business of publishing lesbian fiction. Brenda Kazen and Debra Tobin, partners in life and business, co-owners of Rising Tide Press, provided the following answers.

Deborah Peifer: Small presses are closing all over the place. Why did you decide to become publishers? Talk a little about your background, if you will, as readers, writers, editors, whatever.

Brenda Kazen and Debra Tobin: Although we don't have a background in publishing, we wanted to have a business together. We saw an ad in the local lesbian newspaper here in Tucson, met with the owners, and decided that this business met our criteria and was something we could be passionate about. We've always loved books and reading; Brenda is a former high school English teacher, and Debra was in health care and wanted something completely different. We saw the press as an opportunity to be active in the GLBT community, and not be dependent on the Tucson economy for our business success. Also, the structure of the business affords us the flexibility we need to raise our children and have fun.

How did the Rising Tide connection come about?

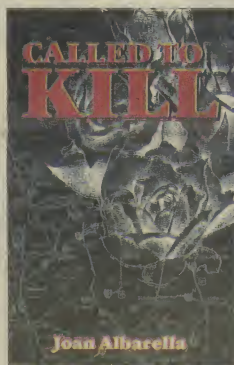
We first saw the ad for the business in October, 1999. We negotiated for several months and finally assumed ownership on January 28, 2000.

What books are you publishing now or in the near future?

Our first two books came out in June 2000. They are *Storm Rising*



ing by Linda Kay Silva, fifth in the very popular "Storm Series" featuring Detective Delta Stevens aka Delta Storm. Also released in June was *Called to Kill* by Joan Albarella. This is the sequel to 1999's *Agenda for Murder*, featuring the Viet Nam vet turned amateur sleuth Reverend Nikki Barnes. Next up is *The Deposition* by Katherine E. Kreuter, available August 10. This is an edgy, hilarious, intelligent look at a twisted romance, with a whodunit theme and a book within a book. The story takes place in Paris, and anyone who has spent any time at all in this city will want to read the book just for a French fix. Also



available in August is *One Summer Night* by Gerri Hill. This is a steamy romance that takes place in North Texas. A fun, sexy read. Coming up in October, in time for Women's Week in P-town, are *By The Sea Shore* by Sandra Morris and *No Corpse* by Nancy Sanra. *No Corpse* is the third in the Tally McGinnis Mystery series.

What are your short-term goals for the press? Long-term?

Our short term goals for the press are to publish the manuscripts already contracted by the previous owners, move into electronic publishing, continue to develop our website, [www.risingtidepress.com](http://www.risingtidepress.com), and offer meaningful nonfiction works. Our long-term goals are to offer high-quality fiction and nonfiction to our readers, to provide images of strong, independent women, and to move into the young adult and Women's Studies markets.

What specific kinds of writing are you looking for? How can writers reach you to submit manuscripts?

We are looking for intelligent fiction and unique nonfiction works. We are committed to publishing two nonfiction anthologies we are currently working on: coming out in high school, and growing up in a gay household. We welcome submissions for these, as well as full-length fiction manuscripts and other nonfiction

works. Our writers' guidelines can be viewed on our website, or queries and manuscripts can be sent to our office: 3831 N. Oracle Road, Tucson, AZ 85705. A self-addressed stamped envelope must be included in order to receive a response.

Is there a future for lesbian publishing, or niche publishing of any

kind? Do you see yourselves as moving toward the mainstream?

Yes, there is a future for lesbian and niche publishing. The market is there and not going away, and we will continue to provide quality lesbian fiction. Additionally, in 2001, we are introducing Milestone Press, for mainstream fiction and nonfiction.

Time to dig out that diary

"Submissions are being solicited for *Afterwords: Real Sex from Gay Men's Erotic Diaries*, an anthology of sexual and romantic experiences from the real diaries or journals of gay men, to be published by Alyson Books. Deadline for submissions: September 1, 2000. E-mail Kevin Bentley at [kevincob@pacbell.net](mailto:kevincob@pacbell.net) for fuller description and submission guidelines." ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to [peiferd@aol.com](mailto:peiferd@aol.com), or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

## Book Report

# The way it was... and is

by Robert Julian

*The World of Normal Boys* by K.M. Soehnlein; Kensington Books, \$22

Gay male coming-of-age stories are not uncommon these days, but they are rarely as finely crafted as K.M. Soehnlein's impressive debut novel, *The World of Normal Boys*. Soehnlein pulls ahead of the pack with a plausible story line that resonates with an understanding of the human condition. He displays a great talent for precisely illuminating one boy's journey, within the context of a specific time and place.

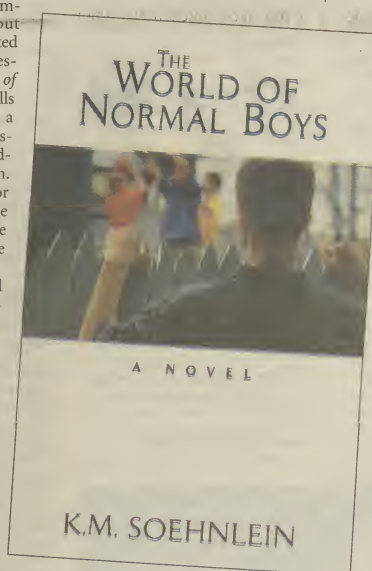
It is the fall of 1978, and 13-year-old Robin MacKenzie is starting ninth grade in a suburban New Jersey high school. In fact, the demographics of Robin's situation closely resemble those of the television series *The Wonder Years*. Robin has a younger brother and sister; a gruff, butch father; a sensitive librarian mother (who drinks too much); and a "sort of" girlfriend who lives across the street. And although it will not be revealed until late in the novel, Robin is also uncommonly attractive.

His mother's favorite, Robin is the aesthete of the family, the boy who is lousy at sports but excels in artistic endeavors. His first cousin Larry, a sarcastic macho lout, is the bane of his existence, and Robin's

little brother Jackson is second runner-up. But when Jackson and Larry torment Robin's sister Ruby on the playground slide, Robin intervenes. The result: Jackson falls and ends up in the hospital on life support. This tumultuous emotional event within the

is no exception. He finds himself in something of a love triangle involving a schoolmate and the older brother of the girl across the street. But where Robin seeks a more three-dimensional relationship, with a strong emotional content, his two male sexual partners are fixated on sex without communication. In fact, Robin's need to talk honestly about his feelings as a natural part of his human expression is one of the things that separates him from the world of the "normal."

Author Soehnlein delineates the "world of normal boys" by reflection. It is the world that Robin MacKenzie feels separate from, the world he does not dwell in. Soehnlein shows us the many ways Robin does not fit, but he also shows us the ways in which "normal" boys — and "normal" parents — choose to live in denial of their own emotional, sexual, and intellectual needs. With a complex and compelling narrative, Soehnlein succeeds in creating the entire world of Robin MacKenzie, with its sexual compulsions, self-doubt, and uncertainty. And although the world described is that of the late '70s, the issues of the book are wholly contemporary. *The World of Normal Boys* is a work of authenticity, as relevant to those who lived a similar coming-of-age experience many years ago as it will be to those who are living that experience now. ▼



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## DISCS

# Return to Manhattan

## Woody Allen films, out on DVD

by Philip Campbell

Woody Allen has been compulsively making movies for over 30 years now, and the sheer bulk of his output has made it increasingly difficult to comfortably label his life's work. There will always be the naysayers who lament his mature style, saying the earlier, more farcical stuff was the best; and the aficionados who appreciate his genius (yes, genius), but can't get past the seamier aspects of his personal life.

For those of us who have been fans from the beginning and who have even found merit in some of the stinkers (*Alice*; *Another Woman*; *Celebrity*), each Allen film offers a fresh glimpse of a remarkably complex seeker who works dexterously in a number of genres and moods. There are the popular breakthroughs like *Annie Hall*, the family serio-comedies like *Hannah and Her Sisters*, and mock documentaries like *Zelig*. And they exist alongside the claustrophobic dramas (*September*) and the light fantasies (*A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy*).

An overview of Allen's movies is a little premature and certainly dizzying, but the DVD revolution is making it possible to hold a mini-festival at will, allowing for relaxed enjoyment and appreciation of aspects of an American cinema giant. Like all profligate artists, there are some duds amid the triumphs, but there is a trademark wit and genuine humanity on display in each and every opus. Now virtually all of his films are appearing in rapid succession on disc. Here are a few of the most recent and interesting releases.

### Interiors (1978)

Written and directed by Woody Allen. (United Artists/MGM)

After the overwhelming acclaim given *Annie Hall* in 1977, Allen willfully made an attempt at a serious American art film. The debt to Ingmar Bergman is everywhere apparent, but aside from the spare and exquisite photographic compositions, there is little of the Swedish master's profundity. If the director wanted to show us his darker side, he might have leavened it with just a bit of his natural humor.

A family drama and then some, *Interiors* has always stood as a frustrating document of Allen's refusal to compromise for the sake of commercialism. Every viewing does yield a different response, however, and I confess to a love/hate relationship with the narcissistic and mostly self-loathing members of this almost laughably dysfunctional family.

There is a bit of Chekhov afoot with three sisters (Diane Keaton, Marybeth Hurt and Kristin Griffith) held in thrall by a monstrously controlling mother (Geraldine Page), but they don't share the goal of traveling to Moscow — they simply don't know where they want to go at all.

Much angst is caused by the fastidious decorum of the matriarch, and she does have a major stick up her ass, but that doesn't really explain why Allen allows her daughters' banal soul-searching to appear so vaguely glamorous. When the father (E.G. Marshall) finally breaks free and brings his new love (Maureen Stapleton)

into the picture, her zest for living and lovable dishevelment also bring the movie itself to life.

Of course, one could argue that this was precisely the director's point, and the earlier scenes of excruciating pretension and stillness suddenly make dramatic sense. Even if you don't buy Allen's stylish gloominess (I should have such troubles — the time, money and good looks to feel sorry for my intellectual paralysis), you will be wowed by the performances and the beautiful clarity of the cinematography.

There is the wedding scene to marvel at again and again, too. Maureen Stapleton has wed E.G. Marshall to the dismay and apprehension of the daughters, and a little tipsy, she dances alone to an old phonograph record. Her face goes from late middle age to that of a young fun-loving woman and, when she accidentally knocks over a precious vase, to a chagrined little girl. It simply takes your breath away, and more than justifies a re-assessment of this often reviled and misunderstood movie.

### Manhattan (1979)

Written by Woody Allen and Marshall Brickman. Directed by Woody Allen. (United Artists/MGM)

Here's my nomination for the essential Woody Allen flick, and it has aged much better than *Annie Hall*. Shot in glorious black-and-white, scored with the best of George Gershwin's tunes and featuring Allen himself as the quintessential New York neurotic, *Manhattan* is an ode to the city and a rhapsody on urban living.

There are scenes that will make the politically correct cringe, as Allen's character, a 42-year-old writer, pursues a 17-year-old girl (the adorable Mariel Hemingway). With the passage of time since this was made, we get some real insight into Allen's present marital situation. Was Soon Yee too young to be allowed to see this picture before the wedding?

All sniggering aside, we must have been more accepting or liberal or European or something in 1979, for I don't remember the age difference being quite so shocking then. Get past the Roman Polanski jokes and view the film for what it is, a very warm and very funny look at human relationships, sexual and otherwise, against the backdrop of the world's most exciting city.

Meryl Streep's cameo as Allen's ex-wife, an out lesbian who has written a tell-all book about their marriage, is a gleeful *tour de force*. Streep and Diane Keaton, doing a less mannered riff on her *Annie Hall* characterization, are stand-outs amidst the wonderful cast. Best of all is Allen himself as Isaac Davis, the nebbish with a Ralph Lauren wardrobe. His observations are unfailingly bright and funny, and we also feel his genuine pain.

In retrospect, this is truly one of Allen's most satisfying films, if not his masterpiece. We also get some insight into his contemporary state of mind. A must for any collection, and still gorgeous in letter-box presentation (Allen has always rightly insisted on this format).



### Sweet and Lowdown (1999)

Written and directed by Woody Allen. (Sony Pictures Classics)

Allen is melding the mock documentary style of *Zelig* with the gentle period romanticism of *The Purple Rose of Cairo* in *Sweet and Lowdown*, and the results are less successful than either of those minor gems, but there is nevertheless a wistful glow that makes this attempt a pleasure to watch. A pleasure to listen to, as well.

A loving appreciation of a fictional jazz guitarist (second only to Django Reinhardt), the movie follows Emmet Ray (Sean Penn) as

he drinks and screws his way through post-Depression America. Described by some of the talking heads who appear periodically as "flamboyant, pathetic, obnoxious and funny," Ray is a musical genius who can't assume the status of his god Django Reinhardt because he won't allow himself to feel.

An affair with a possibly dim-witted mute girl (the wonderfully waif-like Samantha Morton) offers some opportunities for very impolite humor and real pathos, and a brief marriage to a society siren (Uma Thurman at her ravishing best) adds dramatic impetus to a basically static plot, but the real joy of the movie is the fabulous jazz guitar-playing of Howard Alden. Even if the film isn't your cup of tea, you would

have to be made of wood not to respond to the soundtrack.

At a concise 95 minutes, there is not a lot of meat on the bones of *Sweet and Lowdown*, but Sean Penn's remarkable range and asymmetrical sexiness give depth to a curiously underwritten part, and Samantha Morton's heart-breaking vulnerability will linger in your mind long after the final credits. Shot in color with a nostalgic golden hue, Santo Loquasto's beautiful art direction lends period authenticity; and the narration by some real jazz editorialists like Nat Hentoff, sandwiched among some amusing ringers, makes the story humorously real. Another worthy addition to the staggering Allen collection. ▼

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# HEAT

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**Contest 7 to 11 pm After party 'til closing**

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## Drumbeats draw closer

by Mister Marcus

Around ye olde home-towne last Saturday night, a SRO crowd converged on the aging California Club for the "Who Murdered Donna Sachet" spoof. Howls of laughter punctuated the night air as La Sachet and her talented cast enacted spoof after spoof. The food gag with Tiger Lily, and the Ethel and Lucy number, elicited the most guffaws. It was a rollicking good time, all to benefit Positive Resources. Thanks to all who supported, attended, and participated in the production. Does this woman ever rest?

And now on to serious business. . . In barely a month, the 2000 edition of International Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy contests will take place at the Sun Coast Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida — certainly a worthy venue, especially given this is big Drummer event making its first foray outside of San Francisco.

A huge circus tent will be erected on one of the resort's many lush acres, and lighting, sound, air conditioning, and a plethora of leather will fill the enclosure the weekend of September 14-17.

If you haven't already decided to attend, you'll want to bear in mind some of the more important selling points:

- Drummer men from Europe and South Africa will be participating.

- Frank Nowicki will emcee the contest.
- Disco diva

Martha Wash will rock the palm trees.

- Mike Zuhl, the new producer of the International Mr. Drummer contest, has left no stone unturned in his efforts to produce the leather spectacular.

- As the judges' coordinator, I've been getting some of the inside scoop on the production, and I can almost guarantee you it will be a first-class effort.

- Bunkhouse lodging can be had at only \$100 for all three nights at the Sun Coast, but get your reservations in now, as sales for the spaces are brisk. If community lodging is not your thing many nearby motels await you at



Mr. Florida Drummer 2000 Mark D'Alea executed a perfect flip during the fantasy portion of the Florida Drummer contest last Saturday, August 5. He got in the mood by singing the old Village People hit "YMCA." For upending his posterior in this manner, he received a wild applause.

comparable rates, offering the kind of privacy some men and boys just can't live without (good for those pee-shy types who prefer to perform their ablutions in privacy).

Those with Web access wanting more information may visit the Drummer website at [www.drummer.com](http://www.drummer.com) for further details.

### Odds on ends

Last weekend, they held the Southwest Drummer contest in Phoenix, but at my deadline, no information was received on the outcome. So why do I mention it? No reason, except somebody will scream bloody murder if I forget even to mention Phoenix.

Next weekend, Mr. New England Drummer 2000 will take place at the Ramrod in Boston. The slots are filling up fast for the competition. If IM Drummer, Fraser Picard, can resist meeting and dating flight attendants on US Airways, he just might show up at his own stepping aside. Neither Fraser nor Drummer Boy Woodie Barnes will perform marathon stepping-down speeches. They have seen the negative fallout from such actions three times already this year!

### SF LPW

Coming up in exactly one month, on Sunday, September 17, is the official kick-off of Leather Pride Week in San Francisco, and do we ever have some great punters in this city! If Leather Pride were made of pigskin, they'd get it between the goal posts every time.

The major competition during that stretch is the International Mr. and Ms. Deaf Leather Competitions. Bob Rourke will step aside for another man to succeed him. Let's hope some women compete as well. As you may know, no International Ms. Deaf Leather competition was staged last year.

During that week, which everybody who is anybody in the leather kingdom participates in the annual Leather Pride Walk, which embarks Daddy's in the Castro as leather-bedecked men and women amble to at least three other bars in the South of Market area.

Sandy "Mama" Reinhart takes the reins on this year's walk, which will be dedicated to both Grant Dupont and Tony DeBlase. Mama has received tons of support from her "leather boys" and a lot of other people. Almost \$3,000 was raised at her fundraiser just two Saturdays ago.

SMMILE has compiled a list of next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Weekend, August 18-20

Mr. New England Drummer 2000 at the Boston Ramrod. No boy contenders at this one!

In the DC area, the Men of Discipline stage their annual Boot Camp Run.

### Friday, August 18

Glenn Sutter stages this year's edition of "Leather Extravaganza" at a private residence. Tickets available at Daddy's and Mister S at \$100 for the dinner and entertainment, or \$50 for all the rest without the dinner. Irene Soderberg, Antonio and that McPherson woman will perform. Call 863-4296 for info.

### Saturday, August 19

The Forum is supposed to be having a beer bust today — somewhere, sometime. Wish they'd tell me.

In Toronto? Be sure to attend Leather Ball VI, one of the biggest disco parties in Canada. Bears of SF beer/soda bust at the Lone Star from 1500-1900 for \$7 with those cheap (but good!) hot dogs.

### Sunday, August 20

Golden Gate Guards beer/soda bust at the Eagle, with an \$8 donation for all the suds you studs can drink. Food by Chef Andy Rose — 1500-1800, as usual.

### Wednesday, August 23

Leather Buddies meet at 933 Harrison. You know the rules: boots mandatory, leather only, no cologne, no underwear deodorant. Call 863-HEAD.

### Weekend, August 25-26

Alameda Co. Leather Corps presents Mr. and Ms. Alameda Co. Leather, emcee'd by Crickett Watkins. Lady Jean and Mark Ingram step aside for successors.

In Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, Jon Worthington steps aside as Mr. Double L Leather at that resort. Thanks for a great year, Jon!

### Saturday, August 26

The 15 Association monthly play party at the 14th St. venue, with a \$10 donation, BYOB, other amenities furnished. Guests must arrive with you.

### Sunday, August 27

GDI's beer/soda bust at the Eagle, with the Ms. GDI contest, beer, food, shenanigans. Only \$8 and fun galore.

Daddy's Boys present Carnival Games at Daddy's, from 1600-2000, with an \$8 beer/soda bust for PAWS). Daddy Floyd will be the ringmaster, with music supplied by the dynamic Solomon Rose.



## PORN

# Is come the Pharaoh!

by John F. Karr

For a straight guy, English critic Kenneth Tynan spent a lot of time thinking about gay sex. Sure, he was a little kinky. He liked being spanked quite a bit, got into some light SM with his mistress. Yet he gave our sexuality so much thought that he even confessed to his diary, excerpts of which appeared in last week's *New Yorker*. "I regard it as a gap in me that I've never been turned on by the sight, touch or thought of a man." Oh, perhaps he was more than a little sexually fevered. Of a trip to Egypt, he particularly recalled one temple's statue of Amun, because of the "erect prick surprisingly sprouting from the god's official regalia."

Having brought up the subject of Egypt, Tynan allows himself to expound his pet theory for the reason Akhnaten shifted the center of the entire Egyptian civilization from Thebes to a city he built from the ground up. It was because Akhnaten was queer, and his famed consort, Nefetiti, was not a woman at all, but a drag queen. "Akhnaten," Tynan proclaimed, "had to get out of Thebes to avoid a huge scandal when he announced his determination to 'marry' his boyfriend — whose name, incidentally, means 'the beautiful woman is come.'"

Now, as enlightening as this is, you may wonder what it has to do with my porn reviews, beyond their literary pretension. Well, despite the fact that Mr. Tynan died in 1980, his musings are quite timely. It just so happens that this week's movie is *The Pharaoh's Curse*, from Odyssey Men Video. And sure to Mr. Tynan's conjecturing, it concerns a gay Pharaoh.

This unnamed king has a magic garment (actually, a chest harness delightfully secured at the bottom end to a cockring) which gives him super-sexuality. It's also soaked with some sort of sex essence, so whoever smells it gets so horny he just has to crawl all over the Pharaoh. That's what happens in the video's terrific opening, when peasant Blake Harper (looking aristocratic, as usual, even in a diaper of a loin cloth) is hauled in by the Pharaoh's guard, and ends up in a succulent threesome with the Pharaoh and his servant. This role is taken by nasty Rick Allen, who sucks the head of his own dick as

Harper licks saliva off the shaft, before they all fuck the ptolemy out of each other. And did I tell you the Pharaoh likes to be watched? Muscle hump Rob Steele doubles as guard and Royal Voyeur, jacking off over to the side, which underuses his talent, but royally exposes his babelicious beauty.

Finally, playing Pharaoh we have Jon Eric, who may be as distant as a deity, but is a deity nonetheless, as anyone knows who's seen either his porn or his layouts in *Playgirl* (2/99) or *Men's Workout* (6/00), two publications which neglect to quote

Kenneth

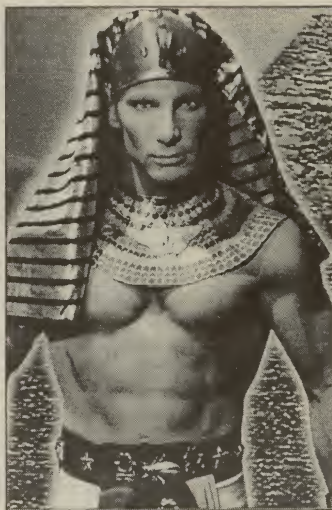
Tynan, but do give good picture. Eric's icy blue eyes and whiplash cheekbones aren't Egyptian at all, but his Pharaoh-nial Phallus sure commands obeisance. Especially with his groin shaved and his

package plumped up by that magic cockring. Obelisk? Oh, bliss.

## Maximum display

As auspicious as the opening scene is sexually, I should have sensed that its overly dense plotting was a bad omen. And although the ensuing sex in this two-hour video is mostly sensational — it's well-staged, arousingly played for maximum display of some heavenly body parts, and not too overly rushed in the editing — it's too willfully intruded upon by a plethora of plot details, and often amazingly delayed. Why, there's a full 15 minutes of strained porn star acting and directorial flim-flam to endure between the first and second sex scenes alone.

Anyway, in a series of complicated events that should have been streamlined, we see the magic garment make its way through the centuries to present-day Los Angeles. First stop is ancient Rome, where the cursed harness forces the Emperor to have sex beneath himself — or, more precisely, with the servant beneath him. Hawk-



Jon Eric stars in *The Pharaoh's Curse*.

paced Zachary Scott is the suitably cast Emperor, joined by groovy Luke Savage and Steve he-gives-me-a-boner Shannon, whose acting is so bad that it's hardly redeemed even by the sight of his beautiful breasts and pacifier nipples.

The next stop is an archaeological site, where Jason Branch, having dug up the Garment, digs into his assistants. Then we jump to the present, with the harness turning the suavely suited Steve Cassidy into a snarling, raging, panting jungle beast of a sex pig in an amazingly sleazy back alley scene. Finally, juicy young thing Rick Chase inherits the harness, and somehow invokes the Pharaoh's materialization. In this final scene, Chase and Jon Eric make spectacular love, with Eric's marble body gleaming glacially in the blue light of midnight.

Now, my mother's been to Egypt, and she says it smells like a pissoir (although I'm not about to ask how she knows about pissoirs), and a well-traveled friend advises that you should never eat bread there, because the people who sell it in the marketplace sit on it while transporting it. So I recommend that the best way to visit Egypt is with *The Pharaoh's Curse*. Despite the video's jumble of intercutting, it's got splendid art direction, expert videography, and an array of men suitable to accompany you into the afterlife. So don't scoff at this porno period piece. If, like me, you came to hoot, you'll stay to shoot. (www.ogmen.com) ▼

dence takes place. Chuck Lance will step aside as Mr. Louisiana Leather 1999.

I will be joining the judging panel in New Orleans. I have yet to be invited to judge the SF Leather Daddy's Boy competition all these years! Harumph!

## Punch line

Delaware is the Russian River of the Mid-Atlantic area. Gays from Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia and all the surrounding states flock there as a third choice between Key West and Fire Island. In other words, it's a destination of choice.

Next weekend, August 24-26, a fast-growing leather competition title will take place at the Double L Bar in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Last year, the handsome, muscular Jon Worthington

won the title. He went on to become the first runner-up at the Mid-Atlantic Leather contest in Washington, D.C. just this past January. Jon did a fantastic job with the title, and he remains much admired and envied for his favorite "boy," Darrell Moyers, who lives in a nearby state.

## One last bite

And last but not least, leather queens from coast to coast were in shock to learn that the Wicked Witch of the East, Vern Stewart — formerly of our town — broomed his way to Salem, Massachusetts to visit some hunk he is contemplating marrying. Excuse me? Isn't Salem the historic spot where they burned witches? At my deadline, it is not known whether the broom or La Stewart made it back home unburned! ▼



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## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

all of the hundreds of events that will be taking place between September 17-24, the final day dominated by the 17th Annual Folsom Street Fair, but good luck getting hold of it. The official schedule will include relatively few events, since the printing schedule did not allow for the full listing, and some event-holders just couldn't pull their acts together in time for the official list.

## I judge, therefore I am

Coming up the first Sunday in September is the Leather Daddy's Boy contest. Lance Brittain will step aside as Leather Daddy's Boy 1999.

That same weekend in New Orleans is when Southern Deca-

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photo by Steven Underhill, digital manipulation by Mike Hardison

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### PARTING GLANCES

#### RRR Pool 7/8-7/9

You: dark; blue/orange suit. Me: shorter, ragged blue shorts, red cap. We waved as I left, kicking myself for not managing more. Hoping for another chance. Please call. ☎ 72149

#### Hey Billy Budd

Cafe Flore, 7/9. Do you believe life has a happier ending than in books? Dinner? Movie? ☎ 72150

#### P.J. Lumbert Konichiwa?

I hope to meet you again someday, Amen. ☎ 72151

#### Eros, Sat July 8

You: hot blond stud. Me: tall dark handsome. We played then met in locker room. Talked briefly, but too shy to ask for number. "Let's hook up again!" ☎ 72153

#### MSQ Early Mornings

"Morning." You bearded, great eyes, beautiful smile. Like to know you better. Dinner? MCG ☎ 72182

#### N. We Met On July 30 While

Sitting outdoors of a bar on 18th Street. I regret not to have exchanged telephone numbers. Please call me. ☎ 72229

#### Joel P. French Canadian Mom

Miss you. Parisian angel network. ☎ 72181

#### Bagdad Cafe You Eating Alone!

7/20 11:30pm. I had dark hair sitting across from you. To shy to smile until I left. You tan boots, left in jeep. "Dessert?" ☎ 72202

#### Mark, We Shared Vege Table In

Chinatown. I enjoyed the conversation. Let's eat in DC. ☎ 72152

#### Sniff PLT, Etc.

Who made those great stencils? I'd like to talk to you. ☎ 72155

#### Metreon Fri 6/30 Firewood Cafe

Phil, I showed you where the car was parked after we introduced ourselves. Thanks for picking me out of the crowd. It would be a dream come true to meet you for lunch again. -Kent ☎ 72154

#### Rick-Solstice Party 6/16

We met under full moon at house on 14th St. Me: Rob from Ukiah. You left to find your partner Doug(?) before exchanging phone nos. Would love to reconnect. ☎ 72156

#### Scott- Lone Star- July 2nd

We met & spoke briefly. Wanted to connect, but got busy with friends. Would love to get together for fireworks or?? Frank. ☎ 72183

#### Sun 7/16/00 Muni/ West Portal

You- cutey w/yellow shirt, handkerchief around neck, glasses, shorts, writing on pad. Me- Asian, older couldn't stop staring. "Let's talk!" ☎ 72203

#### Dave, Sun 7/23 Tower Records...

You helped me find Linda Eder in vocals. You bought mamma cass. We talked and you liked my accent. I'd love to go further, Date? Please call! ☎ 72204

#### Whole Foods Deli, Mon 7/24 4:45

You: grey top, khakis. Me: blue sport-coat, tan shirt. Your smile captured my imagination. Too stunned, I barely "smiled" back. Can do much better. Would love to meet you. ☎ 72230

#### Badlands Sat Nite 7/29

You: short blonde hair, beautiful smile in green v-neck t-shirt with black/white trim. Me: Asian, short hair in white daruma doll t-shirt. Should have said hello. Too shy. Meet for coffee? ☎ 72231

#### Tues. 7/18-Bart/ Fremont;

You: tall blond/thinning, blue eyes, green. watch. Me: jacket, tie, brown/thinning, green eyes. Both boarded Civic Cir, you waved, exited Coliseum. I smiled. Coffee? Movie? ☎ 72232

#### Rincon Center Thurs Aug 3

Chris. We met in the elevator and met again by the post office. You took my hand. Waited for you at 6:15. Still hoping. Michael. ☎ 72256

#### Richmond Bart 8-5 Afternoon

You: shaved head, goatee?, tall, converse sneakers. Me: Asian, shaved head, tattoo. Made eye contact across car. I left @ Ashby; we smiled @ each other thru window. Let's talk. Coffee? ☎ 72257

#### Andy, Lush Lounge Sat 7/29

Your great smile and smoldering looks caught me off guard and left me speechless. I would love a second chance to ask for your number. Coffee, dinner, talk? Gene. ☎ 72258

#### David And Garth-San Gregorio

Beach. This is David and Woody from Utah. We met Friday 7/28. Had a great time- would like to keep in touch. Please call if interested. ☎ 72259

## SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

#### Asian ISO White Male

Asian male, 36, 145lbs. 5'7", attractive, built, smooth, fun, down to earth. In search of WM in their 30's, smooth, tight & lean for friends, date and more. ☎ 72157

#### GWM New To Union City Seeks GBM

Sex is important, but so is kissing, cuddling, sense of humor, and spontaneity. Me 55, 5'11", 175. UB 30-45, sincere, honest, open to possibilities. I'm ready. ☎ 72158

#### Asian

Young, goodlooking, GAM, 52yo, slim, 5'7", is looking for an older GWM for possible relationship. Like: quiet times, cooking, traveling. No smoking. ☎ 72159

#### Attractive Latino

Good looking Latino 35yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, professional looking for GWM 27-40yo for friendship or more. Like: dinning out, biking, hiking, travel and more. ☎ 72160

#### "Blond, Beefy Oh Beau!"

Beefy Cal Ripken type, hairy top, fortysomething, 6'2", 190, blond professional wanted by attractive, masculine, Afro-American, caramel brown, goatee. Virginian, 40, 5'11", 170, writer into jazz, romance, fidelity and cuddling. ☎ 72161

#### R U Ready?

To meet a great guy? 42yo GWM, 6'3", 200lbs professional seeks 35 to 45yo top. Interests include music, dining out & enjoying the good life. HIV- only please. Lv. msg. ☎ 72162

#### Handsome/Creative/Professional

Sexy intense, passionate, worldly, hung-mostly top 5'10", 170, br, gr, 37 HIV neg. seeks masculine, focused, hung or very hot ass'd men for secure, loving and fun ltr. ☎ 72163

#### Life Is Very Short Lets Discover

Each other. Attractive Japanese artist seeks GWM 55+(over) for ltr, possible monogamous. I am 40. 5'8", 135# slim/athletic, HIV- seeks honest sincere romantic, sense of humor, grey hair/little chubby A+. ☎ 72164

#### Bright Eyes, Easy Smile

Handsome GWM (Italian) 54, 5'10", 195 wh/br, stable, honest, affectionate ISO monogamous life partner (friends first, safe sex later), who is happy, enthusiastic, energetic, HIV-, n/s. Walnut Creek area. ☎ 72165

#### Heart & Soul Hunk. Amen!

Friendly, unpretentious, quick-witted, young-looking 41, 6'1", 175#, br/gr, clean-shaven, Dutch background, HIV-, publishing entrepreneur, cook, own flat, hike, swim, sunset cocktail, nude massage. Artistic sensibility. Well-endowed in more ways than one. ☎ 72166

#### The Pisces Looking For A Scorpio

GWM 48yo, 6' uncut bottom bald virgin 175lb, looking for GWM top scorprio only for friendship and more 30-50yo. I'll do all for you, scorprio just fuck me! ☎ 72167

#### Looking For A Man To Love

I am 5'11", 180, 57, good shape, handsome, s&p hair, hazel eyes, mustache, HIV-, looking for a serious man, 40-55, interested in a relationship. Serious only. ☎ 72168

#### Pisces Want Scorpio Only

GWM, 48, 5'10" 175lbs, uncut bottom bald virgin (Pisces), seeks GWM Scorpio top 30-50yo. I will do all for you! ☎ 72184

#### GAM 48 Seeks GWM 55 Or Over

For LTR. Prefer non smoker & clean shaven. ☎ 72185

#### Mature Magic In The East Bay

Mature GWM in Oakland, 5'9", 155, HIV-, looking for GWM, GAM, GLM, 40 to 60yrs., in good health, and good -shape, for good times, safe sex and solid relationship. ☎ 72186

#### Slowly But Surely

GWM, 40, 5'11", 175lbs, fun, sincere, affectionate, fit, seeking friendship, relationship and then sexual intimacy with 35-45 year old honest, sincere non-smoker (n/s, n/alcohol) male. Like movies, dinners, yoga, hiking, biking, dancing. ☎ 72205

#### Handsome Italian

40, 6'2", 185lbs, into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times, seeks another HIV- negative well hung man who is honest & sincere for monogamous relationship. ☎ 72206

#### ~GWM ISO GWM Sweetheart~

Who's affectionate, warm & humorous, HIV-, 32-46, enjoys outdoors, movies, dining out, kissing & cuddling. Me: GWM, HIV-, a young 42, 5'9", 175lbs., brn/blu. ☎ 72207

#### Young Handsome Russian!

Looking for other intelligent Russians or Europeans under 40yo, to give my body and soul. No disappointment guaranteed. ☎ 72208

#### Single, San, Sober, Sensuous...

GWM, 48, 185lbs, uncut, c&k, hairy, balding, versatile. S&g any age for dating and/or playing/ regular sex. Very sexual, sane, and sensuous! ☎ 72209

#### Older Gentleman Seeks Younger

Attr. GWM, 76, 5'7", 165lbs, seeks a loving-sexual friendship, poss. ltr, with a serious 18-45 man. Let's do the Folsom and Castro St.Fair together! ☎ 72210

#### ~Seeking Mr. Not Perfect!!!~

GAM 31yrs with goatee and good, honest, personality seeks fun, interesting, jovial person to share walks on beach, movies and intimate dinners. ☎ 72211

#### "Any Gay Magic Players?"

New to area. Prof. GWM 32, non-smoker, ISO friends, companion and ltr. Let's explore the city together. Enjoy movies, walks on beach, playing collectable card games,... ☎ 72212

#### Slave Seeks Master

A rare Master is out there somewhere. Seeking strong connection between Master, service, pain/joy, "spiritually," and trust/connection to wholly leap into capable hands. Slave tall/slim defined, 38. ☎ 72263

# BAR TALK

## PERSONALS ARE FREE!

### CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐  
Seeking Relationship ☐  
Seeking Adventure ☐  
Lesbian ☐  
Fetishes ☐  
Couples ☐  
Others ☐

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

**MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103**

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. **One ad per customer per week.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



**As Long As You Lode Me...**

I don't care who you are, where you coming from...Nice Brazilian, masc. 36y, 5'7", 142lbs, hard #8 uncult, looking for GWM or Latino, under 40. Hard love is waiting. ☎ 72213

**2 Intense For One Man**

W/LTM a couple between 30 & 50 hairy, slender to well built tops or versatile. Me 6'3", 45 look 40, 215#, masculine, blue collar musvian dyke versatile & affectionate/ HIV-! ☎ 72214

**Sexy Package Skis Covering Material**

Sometimes emotional, always nurturing, intense sex appeal to others, absolute bedroom eyes, shy when most important but internally confident, 5'8", 29, 155, dark featured, Scorpio, favorable package. Turn on: deep-minded, witty, & calm-natured. ☎ 72215

**Asian ISO White Male**

Asian male, 36, 146lbs, 5'7", attractive build, smooth, fun, in search of White male in their 30's, smooth, built, lean for friends and date. ☎ 72233

**Seeking Man To Love For LTR**

I am 5'8", 140#, 35, slim/athletic. Handsome Japanese. Bk/hair-eye, mustache. HIV-. Looking for a serious man, 55+ over, interested in ltr/monogamous-oriented. Wh/hair A+. Serious only pls. call. ☎ 72234

**Blond Seeking Hung Blond Top**

44ylo, musc tanned, smooth, 150, 5'8" HIV- great ass, educated, East Bay, friendly, romantic, bottom. ☎ 72235

**VGL Latino Boy ISO Older Man**

44ylo, 50+, good looking, financially secure, and fun to take care of a great boy. You won't be sorry! ☎ 72236

**Bottom For Bottom Or Top**

GWM, 42, 6', 165lbs, HIV+, Italian/German, brown/hazel, beard seeks lean snuggle buddy 5'10" or taller, 30-45 for cuddling. ☎ 72237

**Travis Where Are You?**

Its been four years. I need to see you. Last time I saw you, you were bald and working at a cafe @Haight and Masonic. P.S. Black male! Remember? ☎ 72238

**GAM Top 4 GWM**

GAM seeks mature GWM; HIV- n/d; healthy/well proportionate for a friend/more. Slim & goffer a plus but not mandatory. ☎ 72260

**Aggressive Asian Men**

GWM wishes to meet and establish a long time love relationship with Asian men. Let's hold, touch & kiss each other. I love to suck a long time. ☎ 72261

**Gay Eagle Scout Seeks Soulmate**

All American guy, seeks outdoors type man for LTR. 45yo, HIV+, no meds, master. Prepared, reg nurse, serious only please. ☎ 72264

**Attractive GWM GWM**

40 GWM 6'4" 230 professional- All American- seeks 36 to 42- San Jose to SF- 5'8" or taller- single, emotionally available- sense of humor- romantic- dating- LTR. ☎ 72265

**Big Man For You**

Attractive, top, GWM, 50, 350lbs. You: attractive GM (White, Asian, Latin), slim. My arms hold what the world lacks. Hugs & kisses come first. ☎ 72262

**Uncut, Hung-9, Hairy, Masc, Musc**

GWM, 50, 5'9", 160, balding, mustache/ goatee, versatile dad. ISO masc/musc fit man, great butt, nice sc&m, "nipple work", verbal, light sc&m, rough, tender, kiss & cuddle. Live on east coast, visiting S.F. Oct. Need photo required, but photo get mine. I am HIV- poz/ok! ☎ 72239

**RU HIV+ Masc. Top?**

Haw/Flip 41 5'5" 152 HIV+ btm w/insatiable appetite smooth affectionate & honest. Seeks masc. top w/insatiable appetite in shape or stocky built 30-55 old. For romance to hot nasty times LTR possible. Into cuddling, kissing, massage movies, dinner, rimming. ☎ 72266

**ISO Athletic Asian- RU Gym Toned?**

Six pack, great abs. Want to meet prof Asian. Call me. ☎ 72267

**SEEKING ADVENTURE****Submissive Black Bottom**

Seeks top dominant a plus, verbal a plus raunch, kinky, sleaze a plus. Available weekends and some evenings. ☎ 72169

**Cocksucker Skis. Muscle Studs**

Horny & hot, 45, 6', 200#, goatee wants to be with the legs of a hot muscle stud (18-40), sucking cock & ass. Your place in the Castro. ☎ 72170

**Slave Wanted**

San Jose master looking for skinny, hung slaves for long bondage and cbt sessions. Must be willing and obedient. ☎ 72171

**Seeking A Sugar Daddy**

ISO a mature man who wants the company/companion of a 31yr old stud. I'm sincere, responsible and well educated. 5'8", 160lbs., smooth, muscular, brown hr/ goatee. ☎ 72172

**Beautiful Latin Seeks Asian**

Me: 24, 6ft, 160, beautiful face & body, intelligent, friendly. I'm seeking a generous, sensual Asian man to get together with on a regular basis. ☎ 72173

**I'm Looking To Keep Up My**

Language practice. Intense French Romantic GWM 30's desires French boyfriend. Charming, wild, magical. Not into "tricky French games". How can we meet? ☎ 72187

**ISO Large Men**

Very Sexy 70yrs needs heavyweights over 250# for hot sex. I'm 6' 165# 6'12" uncult bald, bearded into any scene. Aroma a plus. ☎ 72188

**Oral Excellence**

Friendly 49er has opening for 1-2 good men for cock service. Hot mouth, deep throat soothe aching balls, restore serenity! Big cock essential, in shape, facial hair A+. ☎ 72189

**Tough Guys Wanted To Rumble**

Skinheads, leathermen, wrestler's, boxers, fight clubbers wanted by 5'8", 140# hairy muscled skinhead for barefisted no-rules, fights for top in private SF ring. Dukes up and ready, man! ☎ 72190

**Palo Alto GAM 42-5'11" 185**

Has two holes, needs cock for drilling & filling take your pick, no reciprocation. ub 36yo to 49. ☎ 72191

**Black And White XXX Fun & Sex**

SWM 47, 5'11", 175 masculine goodlooking with a big thick tool seeks hunky Black men for j/o, videos, buttpay, nude beaches and baths. Me HIV+ versatile bottom. Palo Alto. ☎ 72192

**ISO Ass Or Ball Specialist**

I am 5'2", 120 HIV- 58yr. Very clean, need someone experience in ass play flr or expert with ball abuse. You be willing to come to Sacramento, stay at my place if you like, I love sucking cock. Serious only. ☎ 72193

**23yr. Blond/Brown Smooth White**

Male, very fun to be with, enjoyable relaxing time, looking for adventure. ☎ 72194

**Black On Top, Brown On Bottom**

Penetrating Black top man, 46, seeks a masculine, mature Hispanic male who enjoys receiving a hot back door pounding. Chunky build, dark hair and mustache A+. "Serious!!!" ☎ 72216

**I Need To Lick Boots!**

Older guy seeks hunks into this scene, will lick, polish, even clean heel & sole with my tongue. Transport me to ecstasy. ☎ 72217

**Scorpio Boy Handsome Athletic**

Me: 35, 5'11", 175# bn hair & eyes cleaned shaved, smooth chest, kissing & touching. Very important. You be 40-45 good shape hairy/chest. A+. No smokers or drugs HIV+ myself, you be too! ☎ 72218

**Hey Nipple Fans!**

You'll like mine. Fleshy with standup centers. This senior likes, them twisted, sucked etc. What are yours like? Mutual cocksucking too! ☎ 72219

**Thick Tool**

GWM, 5'7", loves chewing nipples and giving lots of rim. Mornings or early afternoon. Older a big plus. ☎ 72220

**Son Seeks Submissive Dad**

W/M 44, masculine, hairy top, seeks older businessmen, masculine, in-shape, deep throat- into spanking dad, role playing A+. ☎ 72221

**Daddy Seeks Son**

Very discreet clean and classy 50y.o. man desires the company of a cute intelligent young cub for fun, frolic and more. ☎ 72222

**White Guy Seeks Hung Men**

GWM 40, 6ft, 185, and goodlooking, seeks hot well hung men for oral, and more. All nationalities are welcome. No one over 40 please. ☎ 72240

**Two Become One**

35, GWM, HIV+ great humor, love outdoors, love the beach, love great old movies, seeks someone with same interest, 40-50, HIV+ into the same. Bottom. ☎ 72241

**One-Wild Fuck**

WM 35 5'10", 195lb blond/blue versatile muscle man, likes to get wild all night long. Call anytime-anytime. Also love to get massaged. ☎ 72242

**Good Problem To Have**

I fuck all my buddies, it must be the tall-dark-handsome thing. I want a guy (couples are fun too), to fuck me. I'm 45, HIV- safe sex only. Call, describe yourself. ☎ 72243

**East Bay Cock Sucker Seeking**

A local tool to service. Any age/race. I'm HIV-, White, 6', 160#, 40's. Porn tapes while servicing? Camcord same close up? ☎ 72244

**Magic Hands**

I give long slow intense erotic massages to formal training, but I have the intuitive touch. Bf's, straight, very discreet, versatile, and safe. No reciprocation required. ☎ 72245

**How Blunt Can I Be?**

I need my vintage Black Oakland tool sucked 2-3x weekly by an experienced expert. Please no beginners, beards/goatees, indirect phone numbers. ☎ 72246

**Hey! Wanna Wrestle?**

Fit, 6'2", 175lb. 40y.o. GWM wants to wrestle fit, playful guys for fun, submission, and/or pins. Trunks/tee, Speedos, nude. Your fantasies welcome. Maybe winner decides loser's "punishment"? ☎ 72247

**Get Naked And Jack Off**

Well hung exhibitionist wants to stroke tool with other naked men. Indoors or outdoors. Strip down, pose and show off, big hard cocks, Group scenes and dars get bigger erections! ☎ 72248

**Virile Encounters**

Sought by GWM (out of town), 60, 6'2" bearded bear with Bay Area men over 6' during monthly overnight visits: maybe dinner and a show. ☎ 72249

**Seeking Hot Hung Thick Top**

Sophisticated bottom visiting SF in August. Looking to have a good time, 5'8", 130lbs. Hazel/grey, brown hair, 40yrs old. Well hung a plus. ☎ 72250

**Hoods & Skimasks**

Blue collar skinhead, 28, tattoos gives hot blow jobs wearing ski masks, hoods, beanies, derby jackets. Have ski mask collection; dig cholos, tops. Santa Clara. ☎ 72251

**Spunk Me**

Cute frat boy 24 needs love the knee action from a dominant jack brother. China town SF. ☎ 72258

**Generous Handsome Professional**

Generous in-shape Asian professional 40s goodlooking in-shape HIV-bottom or versatile guy with class for regular companionship. ☎ 72269

**Spanking And Affection**

GWM, 49, 5'10", 170, bearded, hairy seeks attractive men, under 50, prefer hairy into hot, sensual, give and take bare bottom spanking along with kissing, cuddling & j/o. ☎ 72270

**GAM Seeks Ongoing Sex Partner**

Who enjoys coworkship. GWM mature. Versatile; HIV- n/d; slender/slim bottom a plus. Pos LTR. ☎ 72271

**Blow Job Service**

Asian, 50, 5'8", 150#, goodlooking, HIV-, mustache, cleancut, excellent cocksucker, seeks GWM, HIV-, with hairy body, mustache, goatee or beard on regular basis. ☎ 72272

**Blk Guy Sks Top Dmz Aggressive**

& Raunchy, kink, sleaze + eve & some wk ends. ☎ 72273

**Shut Up And Ride**

35, WM, 5'10", 195lb. blond-blue, muscular, versatile guy wants goodlooking masculine men to fuck with all night long. Also love to get massaged & jerked off anytime. ☎ 72274

**Black On Black**

I want a Black man 29 to 55 for fun and more. Let me take out wine and dine you. I am 45, 6'1"lbs. I like 8" to 10" of tool on you. ☎ 72275

**Bicurpus**

6'180/42, gym body, divorced, Irish-Italian, nice package, looking to serve WM, smooth and hung. HIV neg ub2. Let's do it! ☎ 72276

**Dominant Black Men Who Enjoy**

Using their submissive White fuck toy cocksucker for their personal enjoyment GWM 5'8", 155 hairy and very obedient for you. ☎ 72277

**Rape Fantasy: Make Me Take**

Your hard thick, w/meat between my kissable lips, nice, hairy scobs. Non-freak, regular, naturally handsome. 5'11", 155#, 30's athletic, nice. You: Same, dark(?) playful in-shape:ish. ☎ 72278

**Black Top Wanted**

Attractive GBM straight acting, but very submissive, seeking Black tops to orally service and be dominated by. Prefer clean, well built men who can take control. ☎ 72279

**LESBIAN****DBF Seeks Loyal PWM Slave**

I demand your attention, and total devotion. Serious only need apply. On your knees before me, that's where you belong! ☎ 72223

**FETISHES****Voyeurs...**

Exhibitionist, 40, 6'3", 185, br/br muscular, very masculine, hairy, huge cock, seeks men who love to watch a man pleasure himself. I'm into it, you be too. Older/big men ok. ☎ 72174

**Dominant Latino Seeks Slave**

24yo beautiful Latino top seeks generous slave for a discreet relationship. I'm incredibly intelligent & intuitive. Let's talk. ☎ 72175

**Middle Age, Hung And Horny**

Black man needs a 5 minute blow job before work (7a.m.) or before bed (11p.m.). Husky build and mustache (but no other facial hair) a plus. Oakland area. Serious only. ☎ 72176

**Feet Sheer Socks Anyone Out There?**

Attractive Latino 33, 5'11", 190, size 12 shoe dark features, Virgo. Would like to meet Whites, Latinos, Asians, into same fetish under 40 non smokers only. No games. ☎ 72177

**Erotic Rope Bondage**

Bondage top, GWM, 42, 5'8", 155, good-looking, HIV-, seeks masculine in-shape submissive bottom, 21-45, for erotic bondage, gags, toys, discipline, light sm negotiable. Safe, trustworthy. SF/East Bay. ☎ 72178

**Daytime Asshole-Eater!!**

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! ☎ 72179

**Mature Manpussy Needed**

Well-hung uncut BM wants very experience mature man (50+) for serious plowings at your place. Looking for intense ball draining pleasure. S.F. and East Bay only. Aroma a plus. ☎ 72180

**Instructor Needed**

To teach slim, mid-aged, 5'8", beard, mustache, balding daddy type how to overcome the gag reflex. (Optional Teesh). Want to be able to take on the big ones. ☎ 72195

**Seeking Nipple Workout Buddy**

45yr old, 190lb nipple pig brn, brn, s&p goatee, tat's, piercings, smoker. Looking for dominant muscular & masculine nipple pig buddy for heavy nipple workouts. Studs who shake ++++ Call!!! ☎ 72196

**Full Service Toilet Slave**

Need. Must be obedient, hungry, and thirsty. May train nasty-minded novices. Prefer young and clean cut, (like me) but not mandatory orders may be enforced with belt or paddle. ☎ 72197

**Discipline**

Dad 60, wants subs for on going training. Discipline and service. ☎ 72198

**Pig Hole Punch Fest**

29yo top seeks bottom who love their holes punched and made sloppy. Let's get those lips big and saggy. Facial hair A+. In SF only. ☎ 72224

**Horse Hung Guy Seeks Others**

Very goodlooking BM, 30, 5'11", cleancut/shaven, muscular 190lbs, hung 10". seeks horse hung guy, any age/ weight/ age for hot fun! All answered. ☎ 72225

**"18 To 26 Yr Old Black Cock!"**

Desired occasional sucking by good looking young, hung, WM. I dream of being on my knees for your beautiful, hard, Black, meat. I'll be your slave. Squir on me. ☎ 72226

**Daddy Wanted For A Diaper Boy**

I am 38, 6', 195 brown hair, hazel eyes into being diapered, spanked and threatened like your son. Ltr preferred. You over 45. ☎ 72227

**Enemamate Desired**

40's bi DWM, trim, clean, HIV(-), sincere sensual, discreet seeks exploring all facets. ☎ 72285

**Daytime Asshole-Eater!**

Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 72287

**FF Bottom Wanted**

50's GWM, HIV-, with big hands and wrists seeks GWM, HIV-, with accommodating hole for exploring and pleasure. Aroma/herbs ok. ☎ 72252

**Mutual Spanking**

W/M 60, seeks others into mutual spanking scenes in Castro. No pushy bottoms please. ☎ 72253

**Seeking Big Tool With Big Load**

Masculine mostly straight WM 58 wants to watch you stroke your throbbing cock. See, feel your hot cum splatter my face then watch it clean with natures golden nectar. ☎ 72254

**Two Heads Are Better Than One**

Bi, W/M in Oakland, HIV+, open and discreet, seeks singles or couples for oral pleasures. Shaved a plus. ☎ 72280

**Muscular? Gym Toned? Need Bath?**

You: muscular, gym toned, prefer nicely. No strings. I want to give you a bubble bath with no strings. But if it happens, fine. ☎ 72281

**I'm A 2nd Slave**

And don't come. Am 57 & healthy. You order me to prepare buddy's hole, drink wts & watch you screw. I clean you + him, then leave. # ☎ 72282

**Erotic Rope Bondage**

Bondage top, GWM, 42, 5'8", 155, goodlooking, HIV-, seeks masculine in-shape submissive bottom, 21-45, for erotic bondage, gags, toys, discipline, light sm negotiable. Safe, trustworthy. SF/East Bay. ☎ 72283

**Drag Queen Threesome Fantasy**

Me: Bi-male 52, ISO drag-queens for fun, pluses: red-heads, cigar smokers, 69, French, Greek, j/o, be my teacher. ☎ 72284

**I'll Serve You Deeply**

Handsome, sexy, professionals, w/office or quiet rest/room in area during or after business hours. Masculine, clean, discreet. ☎ 72286

**Bootlicker ISO LTRH Granddad**

In-shape, 45yo/bond son/bot to provide oral/anai services to hung 60+ granddad into s/m, b/d, w/s and other perverse pleasures. ☎ 72288

**COUPLES****Derby, England, Professional**

Any male couple, age 50/51, young outlook, straight acting/looking, non smokers, wish to correspond with similar, platonic. ☎ 72199

**OTHERS****For A Special Man...**

Your host is an English gentleman. Experienced & skilled, he will submit to your demands. Civilized, erotic, discreet. Upper Haight. ☎ 72200

**Hungry Tits Need Servicing**

Older attractive WM, needs hungry mouth to bring on many turn-ons from big balls, regularly. S 72201

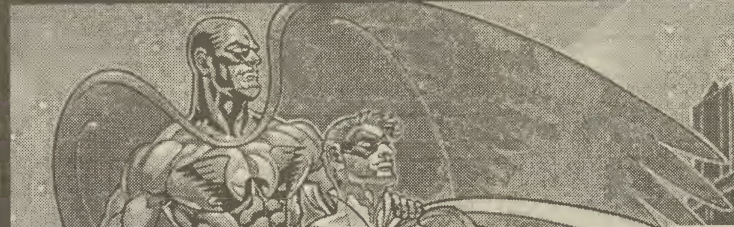
**Circuit Boy Sex Party**

Are you defined, buff, muscle jock who enjoys having sex in a comfortable environment with other hot muscle studs? If this ad peaks your curiosity, then gives us a call. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 72228

**Married, Straight Needs Hung 10+**

In Vallejo will travel weeks in SF. Want hung thick cocks or pretty tvs or and feminine men. ☎ 72289

Play safe. Wear a condom. ☎ SAFE



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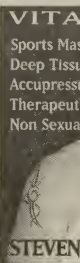
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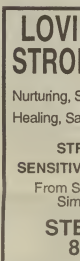


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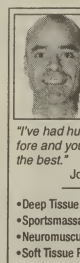
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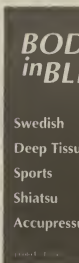
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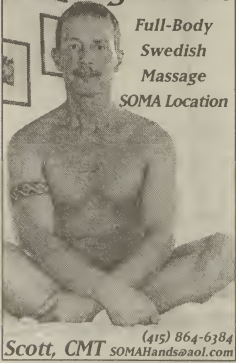
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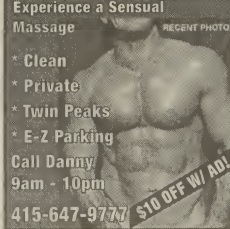
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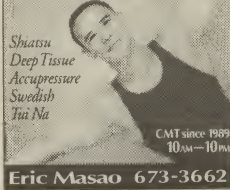
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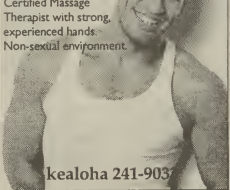
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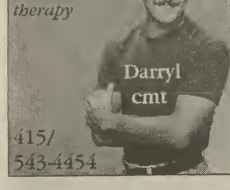
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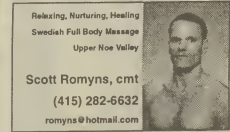
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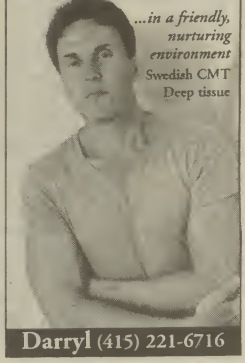
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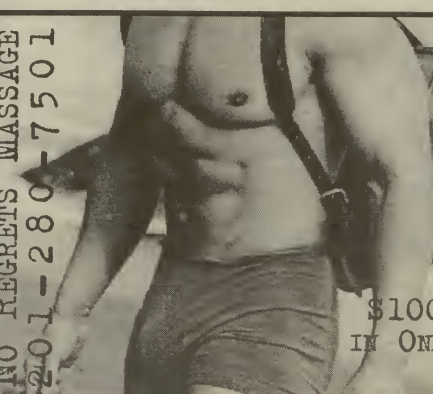
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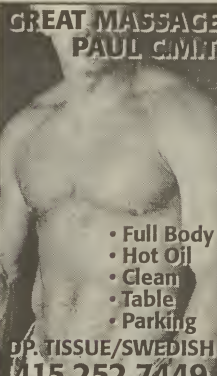


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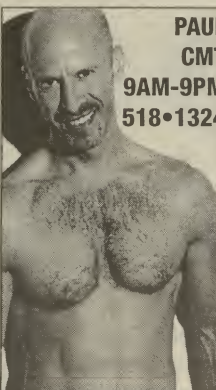
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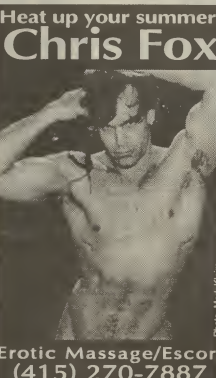


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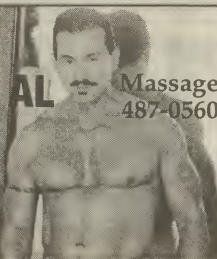
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CMT \$60 Castro loc (415) 431-8862

Colonics by a hot dad \* 241-0567

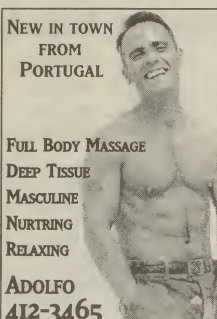
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GET IT ALL IN 90 MINUTES  
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Specialized session. Taoist/  
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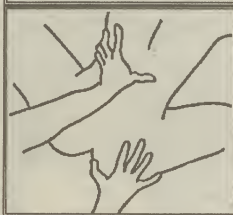


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**FULL BODY MASSAGE**  
DEEP TISSUE  
MASCULINE  
NURTURING  
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Journey into butt attention. Explore rare  
exotic BUTT TECHNIQUES delightfully  
blended into FULL BODY massage. By  
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**Personal Touch**  
Therapeutic & Erotic  
Deep, Satisfying Massage  
Certified & Discreet  
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I knead your body  
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Buff LMT/Energy Healer Serves your  
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By a masculine hairy-chested guy!  
Full body, Full Release in the nude!  
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Sexy 31 y/o WM body to sin. 150#,  
big hands eager to please in-shape  
men and boys with a relaxing rub-  
down to the bone. Latin and Dark  
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Relaxing and therapeutic. Mature  
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(415) 273-5113 \* 24 HRS.

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Midwestern guy attr broad shoulders,  
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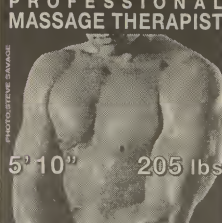
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Anytime  
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\$60 Jim 267-1817

5'7"X135# Smooth 23y/o relaxing  
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34yo, light brown hair/blue eyes  
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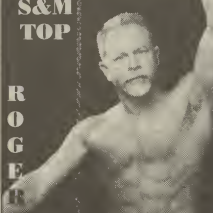
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gradual-sensual to intense  
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Handsome, Expert Master  
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**XTREME MANPLAY**  
6' 190# hairy 46chs Top age 33  
B&D, CBT, TT, S&M, FF, Sling  
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Handsome hung Italian 34, 6', 160

**CHOKO ON THIS!**  
Tight lean bod hairy chest/legs  
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gentle strength & arousing edge  
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**SIZE 12 FEET- HOT- TOP**  
Gd Lking Foot top 40yo, 6'1", 195#  
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ROCK**



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COLT MODEL**  
**\$100**  
6'2", 200lbs, 8" cut  
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Are you a man with a unique imagination?  
Special cravings? Enjoy erotic  
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Solid Muscular Pecs, Abs & Legs  
Deep throat and young jock ass.  
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Lean, athletic body- versatile  
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26y/o muscular, fit, into anything!  
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**DOMINATE!!**  
S&M, light to heavy, massage, etc.  
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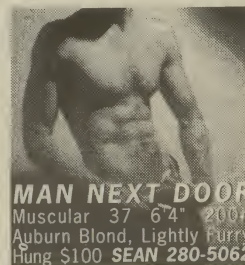
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5'10" 160# hung will kick back  
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Lean, smooth leather top, 32,  
gives it like you need it sm/ bd/ ff/  
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Foot fetish 837-6112



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Muscular 37 6'4" 200#  
Auburn Blond, Lightly Furry  
Hung \$100 **SEAN 280-5062**

**8X7  
6'1"  
240#**



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**6'4" 245lb  
MASCULINE\*AGGRESSIVE  
DOMINANT TOP  
BODYBUILDER TYPE  
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EXTREMELY HANDSOME  
HOT ITALIAN  
INTO DOMINATION, DISCIPLINE,  
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24 HR SAFE/DISCREET

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Gd lking into bondage, s/m, w/s,  
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**20YO BLONDE**  
6ft 165 Smooth  
Gym built and beautifully hung  
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\$60 outcalls only Dave 503-1629

Handsome and sexy jock, Italian  
6', 180lbs. Hung 8inches 10am-10pm  
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25yo 6ft, 175lbs, 31w 44ch, 7.5 fat/ cut  
smooth nuts+hole. Totally shaved,  
trim bush, big nipples/pecs, 24/7  
Massage avail. Patrick 791-1214

22yo, 5'10", 160#, thick & uncut  
**~HOT LATIN BOY~**  
Tan, lean, hard and smooth body  
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Affectionate. Passionate kisser.  
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**Oh Daddy!**  
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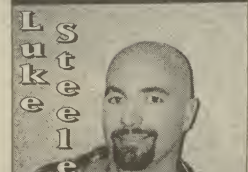


6'3"  
190  
48

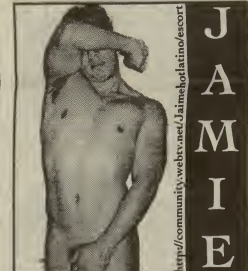
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24 hrs, 24 hrs, 24 hrs  
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**100% ROCK HARD**  
5'11", 165lbs, swimmers build  
tanned w/perfect 8" thick tool  
very cute and very friendly  
Justin Blake (415) 208-0927 24hr  
Call me and lets have some fun!

**ALL-AMERICAN  
LATINO BOY**  
24yo, 6ft, 160#, beautiful face &  
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**NEW MACHO LATINO**  
21yr 5'8", 165. 8" pgr. 792-0147

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31, 6'2", 190  
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Tall smooth lean 26y.o. Horndog  
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Friendly versatile hot 540-2058

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Most scenes 786 8352

Sexy blond jock with w/shhd abs &  
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Tanned, masculine, & versatile  
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5'10"  
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 10.5" cut  
 16 was sweet but 18's legal  
 call me for all your oral pleasures  
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 MASCULINE  
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 Muscular handsome virile. 43 5'9"  
 165lbs. 8 inches big nuts. Jock  
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 gear. Very verbal. Dominant. 100%  
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 great fantasy. Live out your  
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 By good l'king, blnd/bl, 6', swimmer.  
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 43 muscular handsome virile. 100%  
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 Buck is back out of Vallejo will  
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 Unleash passion.free your soul!  
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 6ft, 275lbs, stach, gote, fibl plyr  
 bld, hairy and hungry to service  
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 Unbelievably attractive & muscular  
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 5'9"/140# 8"cut & smooth  
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 29 year old midwest boy  
 5'10", 160, military cut, tight  
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 Muscled xxx hotbod sf student  
 loves hot fantasy & dbl extreme  
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**BLK HANDSOME STUD TOP**  
 Very discreet and friendly  
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 The sculpted 6', 185# blond Adonis.  
 Smooth, defined, satisfaction2theore.  
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 Dominant top! \$150 in  
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## PERSONALS

## MODELS/ESCORTS



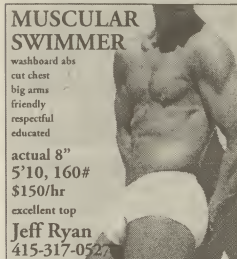
**HOT & SEXY**

*affectionate  
passionate  
latino*

**5'5, 145lbs  
smooth  
uncut**

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actual 8"  
5'10, 160#  
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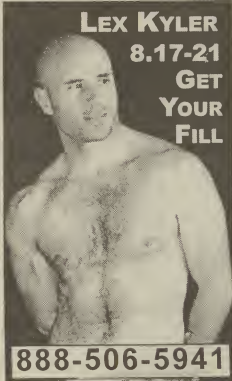
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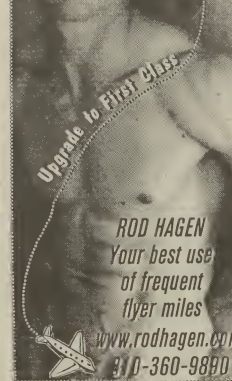
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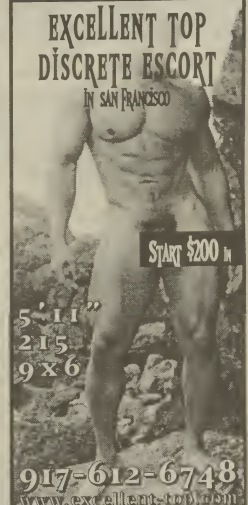
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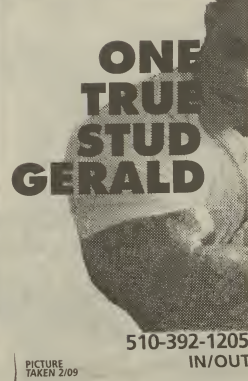


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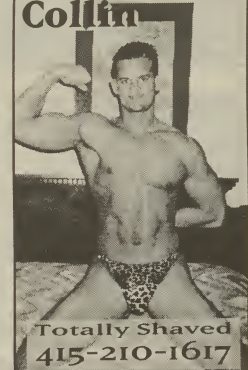
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